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Baltic Prime Ministers Issue Joint Communique

WS2106!20894 Riga CURRENT LATVIA Information Bulletin in English 1634 GMT 20 Jun 94

["Joint Communique of the Heads of Government of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, and the Republic of Lithuania" issued in Tallinn on 13 June; from the Latvian Foreign Ministry Information Bulletin No. 24/94 (55), 13-20 June; received via Internet BALT-L]

[Text] We, the Heads of Government of the Baltic States, exchanged views on the troop withdrawal agreement signed by Latvia and the Russian Federation on April 30, 1994, and on the progress of the negotiations between Estonia and the Russian Federation.

We continue to demand that all military forces of the Russian Federation must be unconditionally withdrawn from the territories of Estonia and Latvia by August 31, 1994, and we urge the international community to continue to call on Russia to respect this deadline. We expressed our conviction that the Russian Federation's policy of linking unrelated bilateral issues with the implementation of most- favoured-nation status in trade relations with the Baltic States is in violation of principles of GATT and of good-neighbourly relations.

We exchanged views on our countries' negotiations on Free Trade Agreements with the European Union. We expressed our preparedness to proceed to Europe Agreements and called on the Council of the European Union to issue the mandate for negotiations of Europe Agreements with the Baltic States as soon as possible.

We expressed our particular satisfaction with the adoption of the status of Association with the Western European Union for the nine countries of the Central Europe which were partners in the Forum of Consultation. We expressed our conviction that this will contribute to the more coherent and balanced integration of the Baltic States into European structures.

We welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Partnership for Peace programme, and reaffirmed the desire of our states to deepen cooperative relations with NATO on the basis of common values and principles, paving the way for the active and interested partners to play an important role in the evolutionary process of the expansion of NATO. We see implementation of the Partnership for Peace as a good basis for proceeding from partnership to membership in the Alliance.

We noted the importance of assistance given by a number of states, especially the Nordic countries, for the establishment of the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion. In this respect, we noted that practical cooperation in the framework of Partnership for Peace would be an important contribution to the implementation and promotion of goals of the Partnership. We agreed to elaborate, as soon as possible, an agreement concerning the mobilities for the establishment and functioning of the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion. We also discussed the situation in Ukraine and agreed that with regard to Crimea we fully support the Ukrainian Government in their efforts to reach a peaceful solution consistent with the national security requirements of Ukraine. We concurred that the stable development of Ukraine is of utmost importance to stability in Europe.

Tallinn, 13 June 1994

Baltic Premiers Issue Joint Statement

WS2106120294 Riga CURRENT LATVIA Information Bulletin in English 1634 GMT 20 Jun 94

["Statement of the Heads of Government of the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Estonia, and the Republic of Lithuania" issued in Tallinn on 13 June; from the Latvian Foreign Ministry Information Bulletin No. 24/94 (55), 13-20 June; received via Internet BALT-L]

[Text] We, the Heads of Government of the Baltic States, in the interests of deepening and widening mutual understanding, cooperation and friendly relations between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and being desirous to strengthen regional cooperation in the context of European integration processes, met in Tallinn on June 13, 1994, and established a Baltic Council of Ministers.

At the founding session of the Baltic Council of Ministers we adopted Terms of Reference for the Council. The Minister President of the Republic of Latvia was elected chairman of the Baltic Council of Ministers for the first year, until 1 July 1995.

We also signed an Agreement on Baltic Parliamentary and Governmental Cooperation between the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania. We view the signing of this Agreement as an historic step towards the integration of the Baltic States into the European Union.

We consider that there is still much to be done to strengthen practical cooperation. Among the first priorities is to ensure the provision of social security for citizens of one Baltic State living on the territory of another, the standardization of customs systems and the facilitation of border-crossings between our countries. Signed by Valdis Birkavs, Minister President of the Republic of Latvia; Adolfas Slezevicius, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania; Mart Laar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia

Tallinn, 13 June, 1994

Centrist Parties of Ukraine, Russia, Belarus Form Alliance

LD2106181194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Yalta [no dateline as received]—Centrist political forces of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine joined in the

International Nongovernmental Association of Political Movements and Parties at a founding conference on 21 June. Delegates to the conference—representing Russia's Democratic Choice, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms, New Ukraine, Ukraine's Interregional Bloc of Reforms [MBR], Ukraine's Constitutional-Democratic Party, Civic Congress of Ukraine, the sociopolitical association Hromada and others—determined the new organization's priorities. These concern, first of all, the creation of conditions for political integration of independent countries of the CIS and the coordination of joint actions to expand economic cooperation.

Commenting on the founding of the association, Yuriy Komov, a member of the organizing committee and a leader of the Union in Support of the Republic of Crimea, told UNIAN that the association's members will persist in convincing the three countries' governments of the need to initiate an open common market in the CIS, with free movement of people, goods, and capital within its territory, and to coordinate CIS legislation to maximize citizens' rights.

The association's founding conference approved statements: "On the Sociopolitical Situation in CIS Countries and the Need for Cooperation Between Parties and Movements" and "On the Economic Integration of CIS Countries". MBR cochairman Volodymyr Hrynyov, Russian State Duma Deputy Aleksandr Arinin of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, and Serhiy Kunitsyn of the Union in Support of the Republic of Crimea were elected cochairmen of the association. The association will continue its formation in the first week of September.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 22 Jun

LD2206064094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0618 GMT 22 Jun 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow June 22 TASS— The Moscow-based press focuses on the 53rd anniversary of Nazi Germany's attack on the Soviet Union, opinion polls taken among Muscovites on attitude to it, and carries reports on Russia's Federation Council decision to bring Russian peacekeepers to the area of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, the forthcoming signing of the framework document of NATO's Partnership-for-Peace Programme in Brussels on Wednesday, on growing unemployment in St. Petersburg, and comments on presidential anti- crime decrees.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) runs an article headlined "The Memories of June 22, 1941, Prompt Us To Keep Our Powder Dry".

"However bitter it sounds but we ourselves in many respects provoked the enemy into attacking. Not by aggressiveness or by plans of a preventive strike against Germany, as our foes maintain, but by our unpreparedness, lack of mobilisation, and, to quote Marshal A.M. Vasilevskiy, by fear to cross the line which separates normal caution from a criminal expectations.

"Herein is the major lesson of June 22, 1941. This is where history merges with contemporaneity and the events of the past with the most pressing present-day problems of the Russian state and its armed forces".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA also carries an article on the tragedy of Soviet intelligence service whose reports that Germany was going to attack the USSR on June 22 neither Stalin nor his entourage believed.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI runs a series of articles on the subject of the tragic and heroical days of the beginning of the war.

According to the findings of an opinion poll taken the newspaper's correspondent nowadays among people on Moscow streets from various age and social groups of the population about their attitude to the anniversary, young people said that, in their view, the Soviet Union's and Russia's contribution to the victory over Hitler and German fascism is being belittled in the West nowadays, while their parents are now more preoccupied with problems of survival and feeding their rather politicised children".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA states that the aggregate number of people who were killed or died during the Great Patriotic War is 43.3 million.

"Stalin was preparing an attack on Hitler, and the latter, unknowingly forestalled him by weeks if not days...

"Should Stalin get his blow in first, the course and outcome of the war would not have changed. The war remained unjust for Stalin and his top entourage who practised expansion and perpetrated many crimes against their own people and the whole of mankind".

The newspaper also runs excerpts from verbatim report about the Fuehrer's remarks under the headline "Adolf Hitler: 'When We Shall Assimilate Russian Expanses..."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with Bismarck's grandson, Count Heinrich von Einsiedel—a German ace pilot who was shot down in the skies over Stalingrad and taken prisoner. While in captivity he became the vice-president of the National Committee Free Germany.

"Hitler was a great misfortune for the German people and Stalin constituted the same for the Russian people and the peoples of the Soviet Union. The two made up a critical mass which lead to the outbreak of war. Among other things, Hitler's guilt is that he, resorting to a venture by attacking the Soviet Union, made Stalin the savior of mankind, although, of course, it was the Soviet people who saved the world," Count von Einsiedel said in the interview.

TRUD singles out a commentary by Stanislav Shatalin, academic secretary of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Department of Economics and president of the Reform Foundation, on the latest decrees issued by President Boris Yeltsin.

Shatalin said "the decrees attained their goal, stirring the lop [as received] of economic stagnation in which Russia has found itself. However, the untargeted nature and ambiguity of a number of positions gave rise to contradictory opinions about the expediencey and effectiveness of the decrees.

"As far as the government is concerned, although it constantly states of late that it has an economic programme, still there are so far no strategy or tactics of reforms that would be understandable to the people. Without that, it is not very logical to issue a series of decrees to this effect," he said. Shatalin believes that the government, not the president, should be the initiator of reforms.

PRAVDA singles out a report on mounting unemployment in St. Petersburg and on the current auctioning of enterprises there cheaply to foreign firms. The Svetlana Amalgamation, which was once the country's largest enterprise and the pride of national electronic instrument-making, is now up for sale.

The government newspaper ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA

—reports that the names of millions of co-citizens—servicemen, partisans, members of the volunteer corps, and underground fighters—will be entered in an all-Russia book of memory which is to be published by the 50th anniversary of the victory. The book will consist of 700 volumes which are to be turned over for perpetual storage to the Poklonnaya hill memorial complex.

—Frontpages a statement by Aleksandr Belyakov, governor of Leningrad region, that Russian governors will "insist on a meeting with President Boris Yeltsin in the coming days" to set out their views on ways to take the country's economy out of the crisis.

—Laments that the recent working visit by Russian parliamentary delegation, led by State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin, to Germany, "was passed over in silence" by German news media.

—Points out that Hungarian-made medicines produced by the Gedeon Richter plant may disappear from sale in Russia's drug stores in view of an instruction issued by the Russian Ministry of Health in March that medicines that appear on sale in Russia should undergo quality tests. The Hungarian enterprise is not against yet another series of tests of its medicines but the Ministry did not yet establish a network of laboratories to enact its decision.

Kozyrev Signs Partnership for Peace Program in Brussels

LD2206100294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0945 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Brussels, 22 Jun—Today, Russia joined the "Partnership for Peace" program proposed by NATO leaders. At the alliance's headquarters, Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev signed a framework document on the general principles of participation in this program, the aims of which have already been supported by 20 states of Central, Eastern, and Northern Europe.

'Protocol' on NATO-Russia Partnership for Peace Program

LD2206133194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1225 GMT 22 Jun 94

["Protocol on results of discussions between Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, and the NATO Council"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Brussels, 22 Jun 1994—1. Russia and NATO have a significant contribution to make to guaranteeing European stability and security. Constructive relations of cooperation between Russia and NATO, based on mutual respect, advantage, and friendship, are therefore a key element in security and stability in Europe and accord with the interests of all other states in the CSCE region.

Russia and NATO welcome the progress that has already been achieved in their relations, including that within the framework of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, and they will strive to strengthen it further.

2. Russia's signing of Partnership for Peace opens up big new opportunities for the development of relations by means of practical cooperation in spheres covered by the framework document of Partnership for Peace.

Russia and NATO have agreed to prepare a wide-ranging, individual program of partnership, in keeping with Russia's size, importance and potential.

3. They have agreed to establish far-reaching Russia-NATO cooperation relations both within and outside the framework of Partnership for Peace. These relations, aimed at strengthening mutual confidence and openness, will develop to reflect common goals and supplement and strengthen relations with all other states. They are not directed against the interests of third countries and will be transparent.

4. Russia and NATO have agreed on broad and in-depth dialogue and cooperation in those areas where Russia can make a unique and important contribution commensurate with its weight and responsibility as a major European, world and nuclear power:

—by exchanging information on security policy problems of European dimension;

—by holding, as required, political consultations on issues of mutual interest;

—by cooperating on the entire range of security issues, including, as required, in the sphere of peace-keeping.

'Russia-NATO Program' Not To Be Signed

LD2106172194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] The Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has declared that the protocol to the Russia-NATO program due to be approved in Brussels is not going to be signed.

Answering a question from Interfax before his departure for Brussels on Tuesday he said the protocol does not require signing. "It registers the understanding that Russia and NATO are going to cooperate on key elements of the program the Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev submitted to the NATO headquarters about a month ago", Kozyrev said.

According to him, Grachev described the military aspects of cooperation. "Now we are going to add a political element and officially proclaim the cooperation of Russia and NATO," Kozyrev said adding that he would sign the Partnership for Peace program in Brussels. "We welcome this program too", he said.

The minister stressed that the protocol and program supplement, not contradict each other.

According to Kozyrev, the protocol which is now getting its final touch reflects the special relationship of Russia and NATO and their potentials. "The interaction and mutually- beneficial cooperation of Russia and NATO are possible and necessary", the minister reiterated.

Further on 'Russia-NATO' Protocol

PM2106152594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jun 94 First Edition p 6

[Unattributed report: "Andrey Kozyrev: We Proceed on the Basis of Pure Pragmatism in Cooperation with NATO"]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev announced Monday [20 June] that during his visit to Brussels, and in addition to the document on joining NATO's "Partnership for Peace" initiative, he will also sign a protocol concerning Russia's direct cooperation with NATO.

Emphasizing the second document's importance in a conversation with journalists, the Russian Federation's foreign minister said that Russia is interested "not only, and maybe even not so much, in signing the 'Partnership for Peace' program, but in the Russia-NATO program."

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by the minister's adviser Galina Sidorova that the protocol on cooperation with the North Atlantic alliance is a "ramified document." She reminded him that the program for Russia's cooperation with NATO, which was elaborated by Russian experts, was presented by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to his NATO partners during his recent visit to the alliance headquarters. Afterwards, Russian diplomats and their NATO colleagues used it as a basis to prepare a document acceptable to both sides. Work is still being done on details, but Russia's most important wishes have been taken into account. "The protocol will incorporate virtually all provisions in the program suggested by us to NATO," G. Sidorova said.

Russia Wins Superpower Status in NATO Relations

LD2106122494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1212 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents]

[Text] Moscow June 21 TASS—After signing the NATO "Partnership for Peace" plan and a bilateral protocol Russia will equally cooperate with "major European, leading partners in European and global security", Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told mass media chiefs on Tuesday before departing for Brussels where he is to sign the two documents on Wednesday.

He added that the "Russia-NATO" protocol reflects the status of Russia as a superpower.

Kozyrev categorically denied allegations that Russia claimed a "special status" in the partnership programme. "We are as equal a member of the UN as, say, the State of Fiji. All countries have an equal legal status in the framework of the (NATO) partnership, whether it is a mighty nuclear power, like the USA, or Belgium with its two or three divisions", he said.

Counterintelligence Chief Denies Leak of Nuclear Components

LD2206111594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0950 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By KRIM-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jun—Allegations that Russia has leaked enriched uranium suitable for the manufacture of nuclear weapons have been decisively denied by Aleksandr Mikhaylov, head of the Central Public Relations Service, in a conversation with a KRIM-TASS correspondent at the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service today. At the same time, he did not rule out that there have been instances of radioactive components being smuggled out. "Yes, such attempts have been made, and we have informed the public that we have put a stop to them," he said. "However, no enriched uranium or plutonium (apparently used to manufacture arms) has been taken out of Russia."

Asked about the possibility of a leakage from former Soviet republics following the collapse of the USSR, none of the participants in the conversation could be equally certain. The KRIM-TASS correspondent requested a meeting with counterintelligence nuclear experts in connection with the noise raised by Western media around the false allegations that Russia helped North Korea develop a nuclear bomb and that Russian mafia-style groups have control over the nuclear potential of Russia itself.

Regarding the apprehensions recently expressed by FBI Director Louis Freeh that "nuclear materials can be smuggled out of Russia into the United States for the purposes of terrorism" or that in Russia's black market "components of nuclear weapons and highly enriched nuclear materials suitable for the manufacture of weapons are being offered for sale," the counterintelligence experts said unanimously: "None of the world's special services has detected any leakage of any components used in the production of nuclear weapons. And even Freeh himself could not cite any specific examples. We would only thank anyone who could tell us specific facts, since this is a matter directly affecting the security of our country." "All these conjectures directly affect us counterintelligence men. Indeed, the export of strategic uranium and plutonium and also of nuclear components allegedly taking place cannot occur behind the back of the Federal Counterintelligence Service," the KRIM-TASS correspondent was told by a high-ranking official of the Russian Federation's Federal Counterintelligence Service. "Therefore, experts of the Federal Counterintelligence Service have deemed it necessary to provide a few explanations."

"As for the problem of so-called assistance to North Korea in creating its own nuclear bomb, be it with technology or with experts, various officials of our country have repeatedly declared our loyalty to the international agreements. Cooperation in this field has been conducted exclusively for peaceful purposes and under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Authority [IAEA]," said an operational worker of the Federal Counterintelligence Service who at the end of 1992 took part in measures to detain a group of Russian nuclear experts trying to fly to North Korea. "Thus far we have successfully thwarted all such attempts to 'recruit' people with secret information in the said field, making use of the difficult economic situation of our country, and all attempts by secret services, including those of North Korea, to extract information from nuclear facilities and to steal nuclear technologies."

"Summing up the conversation with experts from the Federal Counterintelligence Service, Aleksandr Mikhaylov told the KRIM-TASS correspondent that attempts to accuse Russia of being incapable of controlling the nonproliferation of its nuclear weapons, technology and materials are obviously being made in pursuit of political aims. They are aimed at preparing public opinion in the West for the idea of establishing political control over Russian nuclear weapons."

Two Battalions of Peacekeepers on Standby for Abkhazia

LD2106112794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1006 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Two Russian battalions in the Caucuses are fully prepared for peace-keeping operation in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone, Interfax learned Tuesday at the press center of the Russian forces.

The center said that the batallions were ready to take control of the area allotted to them within a few hours of receiving orders.

The order could come immediately following the Federation Council's approval of the decision of President Yeltsin to send peace-keepers to Georgia.

Grachev Welcomes Approval for Abkhazia Mission

LD2106122794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 21 Jun 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Federation Council's debate on the dispatch of Russian peacekeeping forces to the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict is one of the most important events of the day. The decision was adopted by a majority of votes.

[Correspondent Marina Vasilyeva] Today's session of the Federation Council began with a debate on the possibility of using the Russian Armed Forces for the peacekeeping operation in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. The debate, held behind closed doors, lasted over an hour. The president's edict was ratified as a result. Journalists learned of this first from Pavel Grachev, who represented the Russian president at the session.

[Begin Grachev recording] The Federation Council has adopted a positive decision. The debate was conducted in a proper manner. The motion won an absolute majority. Seven deputies abstained and another seven were against. All the rest voted for the peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia. This is a sign—or, for me, an order—to get started. In literally two or three days' time, once Colonel General Kuznetsov has reported to me that all engineering and mine clearance work has been completed, we will start on the peacekeeping operation proper—in other words, the deployment of outposts, checkpoints, observation points, command points. We will start work. [end recording]

[Vasilyeva] The decision that was adopted gives the go-ahead for a contingent of the Russian Armed Forces, numbering up to 3,000 volunteers, to be used in the peacekeeping operation, with an initial mandate of six months. Committees of the Federation Council have been instructed to supervise the implementation of this decision.

Further Grachev Comments

LD2106160294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Only after mines are removed from the zone of disengagement of the Georgian and Abkhaz units along the Inguri river shall the first two Russian peacekeeping battalions be sent to the conflict zone, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told journalists after the Federation Council ratified the presidential decree on Russia's involvement in the peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia.

According to representatives of the defense ministry who took part in the session of the Federation Council, the decree was supported in a 101 to 5 vote with five abstentions. The media has not yet received the official results of voting.

Grachev also said that two Russian battalions will be moved to this region from Batumi soon. A battalion of the 345th airborne regiment, located in Gudauta, will also be sent to the conflict zone.

If three battalions prove to be insufficient, two more peacekeeping battalions, located in the Volga and Leningrad military districts, will be sent to Abkhazia, said Grachev. He added that the peacekeeping battalions would be about 3,000 strong.

He said that the participation of peacekeeping forces from other CIS countries was problematical. He noted, however, that next September the heads of the CIS countries would discuss the peacekeeping operation in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

The heads of state must decide whether to send peacekeeping units to Abkhazia or only to finance the operation, Grachev said.

Deputy Minister Cited on Peacekeeping Mission

LD2106155294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] The sending of Russian peacekeeping forces to Abkhazia is of great significance for Russia, because the settlement of the conflict and the stabilization of the situation in this dangerous zone are very important, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov told INTERFAX.

"The Caucasus and the Transcaucasus are two mutually related regions," said Pastukhov. "A fire in one of them may spread to the other. From the international point of view, Russia has always played the role of peacemaker, guided by U.N. norms and requirements," he added.

He also said that this operation would differ from the previous ones in that Russian peacekeepers would work jointly with U.N. observers.

Kozyrev, Christopher To Discuss Korean Issue

LD2106155494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1418 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Chubarov]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jun—The idea of holding an international conference on questions of the security and nuclear-free status of the Korean Peninsula looks at the present moment more topical than ever. This was stated today by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev before his departure by air for Brussels. In the Belgian capital he intends to meet and have talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"This meeting," the head of Russian diplomacy noted, "is being held on the instructions of the two presidents to examine the Korean problem and to agree a common approach in the UN Security Council."

As yet, he added, we do not have sufficiently complete information as to what specifically former U.S. President Jimmy Carter managed to achieve as a result of his trip to the DPRK. A. Kozyrev voiced the hope that his meeting with the secretary of state will help shed light on this question.

At the same time, he stated, Moscow cannot be satisfied just with the assessments of the U.S. side, but intends to be guided primarily by its own understanding of the situation, since the problem which has arisen has a direct bearing on the sphere of Russia's national interests, indeed geographically the Korean Peninsula is located much nearer to Russia than to the United States.

In the course of his visit to the Belgian capital the head of the Russian Federation's foreign policy department also plans to sign the framework document of NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program and the "Russia-NATO" protocol to the eponymous bilateral cooperation program.

This protocol determines, the minister continued, that Russia and NATO will cooperate in the military-political and military-technical sphere on the main elements of the program which has already been submitted to Brussels by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

Concerning the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, A. Kozyrev stated that this question will also be discussed at the meeting with W. Christopher. He announced that in Geneva in the near future there might be a second ministerial meeting which would be primarily devoted to liaison with the warring sides.

Intelligence Service 'Closely Monitoring' Nuclear Issue

LD2106120994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1055 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jun—The Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation is closely monitoring the situation regarding the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula and this monitoring is being done, among other things, in collaboration with representatives of Western special services, experts of the Foreign Intelligence Service told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

Replying to a question about the possible emergence of a new armed conflict on the Korean peninsula just over four decades since the end of the Korean war, the Russian special service experts said: For the time being, according to our estimates, neither side wants a conflict. The specialists said that so far they cannot see that either side has a clear and firm policy toward casting the world into global conflict.

The experts of the Foreign Intelligence Service categorically denied speculation that the former Soviet Union virtually assisted North Korea [DPRK] to create a nuclear bomb, stressing that cooperation between the USSR and DPRK in the nuclear field had been carried out for exclusively peaceful ends and under international control. In particular some work to train specialists was carried out. Apart from this, the USSR supplied fuel assemblies for a civilian research reactor under the control of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Commenting on the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula, informed Russian circles note that in addition to the problem on the surface, each side has its own political objectives and this is reflected in the political campaign now under way in the world.

Officials Claim DPRK 'Does Not Have Nuclear Arms'

LD2106135294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1341 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow June 21 TASS—Specialists from the Russian Ministry for Nuclear Power Engineering are sure that North Korea does not have nuclear arms, head of the ministry's department Georgiy Kaurov told a news conference here today. At the same time, he stressed that every state that has a nuclear reactor is potentially able to make an A-bomb.

The North Korean nuclear center was created with the use of technical documents and the assistance of Soviet nuclear specialists, Vladislav Kotlov, the ministry's leading expert and supervisor of the North Korean center's construction, told the news conference.

In his words, the center is meant for exclusively economic and scientific purposes, it produces isotopes for medicine and industry, processes the results of physical experiments, develops technologies and trains specialists. Today the center does not have a single Russian specialist.

"Any nuclear installation is capable to produce plutonium", said Kotlov. But it is necessary to build a number of facilities, train specialists and have kilos of plutonium to use the installation for the defence.

The expert said that North Korea is building the facilities and has nuclear specialists. But it has produced several dozens or hundreds of grams of plutonium which is not enough to make a nuclear bomb, he added.

In his turn, Kaurov thinks that one cannot say the nuclear arms are ready before they are tested. It is up to a sovereign state whether or not to admit IAEA inspectors to its secret facilities. Russia also has a number of centers which foreign specialists are not allowed to visit, he added.

Kozyrev Fears DPRK May Have Bomb in 'Near Future'

LD2106125694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1244 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Moscow June 21 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev fears North Korea may soon get its own A-bomb and said the issue is of "a principle importance for Russia and the United States".

"Evidently, North Korea has no nuclear bomb at present, but it can be created in the near future. The production of a nuclear bomb is no problem for a centralised economy which has a plutonium- producing nuclear reactor", he told Russian mass media chiefs on Tuesday.

"If we close our eyes on the North Korean attempts to get nuclear weapons, this would serve as an example for other states with a nuclear potential", Kozyrev said and mentioned South Korea and Japan, in particular.

"It is known that the West resorts to hidden sanctions against such countries as it happened with Ukraine during the signing of a cooperation agreement with the European Union", he said.

The Russian foreign minister made it understood that the recent tensions in Russian-US diplomatic relations which emerged after Washington, contrary to bilateral agreements, distributed its unilateral UN Security Council draft resolution on sanctions against Pyongyang, have been eliminated.

He said Russia and the United States have begun to draft a completely new joint document which will be ready by Wednesday or Thursday.

Kozyrev also said that his US counterpart had forwarded a detailed outline of the report of former US President James Carter who had met the North Korean president.

Atomic Energy Ministry Concerned Over DPRK Nuclear Program

LD2106162294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] The Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy is concerned about the possibility of creating nuclear weapons in North Korea and other countries, Head of the Ministry's Public Relations Department Georgiy Kaurov told a press conference in Moscow. North Korea has no nuclear weapons today, he said. But every country possessing a nuclear reactor can create a nuclear bomb, he added.

He announced that any reactor can produce plutonium which may be used for creating a nuclear bomb. However, a nuclear bomb cannot be made without a radiochemical laboratory. North Korea will finish the construction of such a laboratory in 1996, he said.

He stated that not a single specialist possessing information about methods of creating nuclear weapons has left or will leave Russia. There are no Russian nuclear physicists in North Korea, he said.

The Ministry's leading specialist in atomic energy Vladislav Kotlov said that conclusions about the amount of accumulated plutonium might be made indirectly, without an inspection. One can assert that North Korea has nuclear weapons only after tests, he said. He believes that the amount of plutonium accumulated in North Korea is measured in grams and is insufficient for creating nuclear weapons.

He thinks that nuclear weapons in North Korea are a political issue and that some would like to overly exaggerate it. "All this is coming from South Korea and Japan, whose position is supported by the U.S.," he said.

Kotlov, who ran the construction of the North Korean nuclear complex, said that the construction got underway in 1963 and that two years later a water-type nuclear reactor was put into service.

The North Korean nuclear complex was intended for the production of isotopes for medical and industrial purposes, and for carrying out experiments. The North Korean reactor's capacity was 2000 kilowatt when it was put into operation, he said.

ITAR-TASS Notes Increased U.S. Activity Off DPRK Coast

LD2206120194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1157 GMT 20 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Kutakhov]

[Text] Tokyo, 20 Jun—The number of visits paid by U.S. nuclear submarines to ports on the west coast of Japan has increased during the last 12 months. Japanese naval sources quoted by KYODO news agency today believe that this is connected with the increased tension over the DPRK's nuclear program and the belief that Pyongyang is striving to create its own nuclear weapons.

The reason for the increased activity of U.S. nuclear submarines is the intensification of the U.S. Navy's intelligence operations around North Korea. The nuclear submarines are cruising along the DPRK coastline, picking up information about the communications networks of the North Korean armed forces and intercepting all kinds of radio messages.

The largest number of visits were to the U.S. naval base of White Beach on the Japanese island of Okinawa. Submarines called there 17 times. Moreover, U.S. nuclear submarines were also frequent "guests" at the docks of Sasebo (Nagasaki Prefecture) and Yokosuka (Kanagawa Prefecture) naval bases.

'Recognition,' 'Unpredictability' Seen as DPRK Goals

PM2106120594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 3

[Article by observer Aleksandr Golts: "Korean Peninsula: Is the Crisis Over?"]

[Text] "It is my personal opinion that the crisis is over, and I am confident that Kim Il-song wants to ensure that the crisis is surmounted," Jimmy Carter, former U.S. president, declared after a conversation with Lake, the incumbent President's assistant for national security affairs, and Gallucci, U.S. assistant secretary of state for politico-military affairs. It was Carter who assumed the mission of intermediary between Pyongyang and the world community after the DPRK announced its withdrawal from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

His unprecedented eight-hour conversation with Kim Il-song, the DPRK leader, resulted in Pyongyang's proposals for settling the crisis, which Carter took to Seoul and Washington. We are talking, in particular, of a proposal to reduce the troops of each of the Korean states by 100,000 men. The DPRK seems to be abandoning its former demands for the unconditional withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea and would now like their numerical strength to be reduced in the same proportion as the troops of the North and the South. In agreeing to a meeting with the South Korean president, Kim Il-song would like Washington to act as intermediary if the DPRK fails to find a common language with South Korea.

Finally, the chief point. Kim Il-song, according to Carter, will agree to freeze his nuclear program while "conscientious talks" are under way, and has promised not to remove the IAEA inspectors from the nuclear installation and to maintain in working order the monitoring equipment installed there. In return he would like to receive international assistance in making the full switch from a graphite reactor to a light-water reactor.

Official Washington has not gone into raptures over these proposals. It has been declared that the United States will not cease its efforts to introduce sanctions against the DPRK until real progress has been made on the nuclear problem. According to Gallucci, Pyongyang's fulfillment of a number of conditions remains the key point. Above all, its pledge not to process nuclear fuel, as well as permission for international inspections of DPRK nuclear installations. If these demands are met, Washington will agree to holding a third round of talks with the DPRK.

Despite the emphasized restraint, a sigh of relief is clearly audible in all this. For, as the mutual threats escalated, the situation was getting increasingly out of control. Many people were losing their nerve. Witness the Japanese prime minister's strange statement, to say the least, that his country possesses everything necessary to create nuclear weapons! Yet the idea of sanctions was clearly on the skids owing to the position of China and, partly, of Russia, which reckoned (not without grounds, as we see) that far from all means of persuasion had been used. President Clinton was finding himself in a rather foolish situation: Having raised his hand, he clearly could not strike. This cannot pass without hurting the reputation of a world leader.

The situation is still not entirely clear, and it is too soon to sum up results. But if the DPRK now permits inspections and, simultaneously, achieves the realization of even some of its proposals, then Pyongyang will be the obvious winner. If we forget about the high moral ground, then the North Korean politicians have played their game brilliantly. After escalating the situation to the limit, they have promised to sacrifice their nuclear program in exchange for de facto recognition of the DPRK. You can be confident that it will not even occur to anybody in the next few years to put pressure on North Korea over human rights observance or anything else. In politicians' brains it is being imprinted: Do not touch the DPRK, and nothing will threaten the nonproliferation treaty.

Pyongyang is not being original in this. It has played the game which Soviet diplomacy also played repeatedly and with success in unforgettable times. The object of the deal here is not nuclear might. The chief thing here is unpredictability in the eyes of the other people in the game. It seems that even now that the Cold War has vanished into the past it is possible to sell your own unpredictability quite well....

Chernomyrdin Arrives in Washington 21 Jun

LD2106183994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1808 GMT 21 Jun 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Washington, 21 Jun—Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the government of the Russian Federation, arrived in Washington today for a visit. He was met at Andrews Air Force Base by U.S. Vice President Albert Gore and other officials.

The Russian premier will take part in the work of the next session of the Russian-U.S. Inter-governmental Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation.

Meets U.S. Jewish Leaders

LD2206041994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The head of the Russian Government Viktor Chernomyrdin, who arrived in Washington on a visit on Tuesday, held a meeting in his official residence with representatives of influential Jewish organizations. The leaders of the organizations stated their support for the process of Russian reforms and stressed that they would do everything possible to assist them. At the same time they voiced concern at rising crime in Russia and acts of anti-Semitism.

Viktor Chernomyrdin stated that the country's leadership intends to firmly strive for the observance of human rights and to combat crime and manifestations of chauvinism. At the same time he noted that political stability can be based only on economic stability and economic and trade cooperation between Russia and the Unites States could play an immense role here.

At the meeting a wide range of issues was discussed, in particular the need for the abolition of the Jackson-Vanick amendment as one of the barriers which are holding back the development of bilateral trade.

Foreign Ministry on Duration of Iraqi Sanctions

LD2106165694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1538 GMT 21 Jun 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Ministry believes that if Iraq formally declared respect for Kuwait's sovereignty and recognized the demarcated frontier, the chances of lifting the international sanctions against Baghdad would look brighter, a senior Russian diplomat told an Interfax interviewer on Tuesday.

He stressed that these sanctions could not last forever and would have to be dropped sooner or later best of all by civilized means.

In his words, "even now there is an explicit erosion of the sanctions." "For instance, there is evidence of the Turks siphoning oil from the oil pipe-line, going from Iraq. In other words, an appropriate process is underway, and the world community should take it under control," he said.

He argues that the UN Security Council should set a six-month term for monitoring Iraq's compliance with the Security Council's resolution. "Even now one can say that Baghdad has fulfilled the UN Security Council's resolution 687 on disarmament in full. After this term, the UN Security Council could discuss the possibility of lifting or softening the sanctions. The Security Council imposed them, and it was for it to abolish them," the diplomat stressed.

Italian Aide Cited Ahead of Naples Summit

PM2106150994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 3

[Interview with Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Livio Caputo by RIA-NOVOSTI correspondent Aleksey Khazov in Rome "especially for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI;" date not given: "Italian Diplomacy: Thoughts on Naples and Moscow"]

[Text] It did not prove very hard to get an interview with Livio Caputo, new Italian deputy foreign minister. Partly because that is the new style which has already been established in the Berlusconi government, and partly because Caputo is a former journalist colleague. We became acquainted at a time when he was chief of the international edition of the Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA and, coming to Moscow, managed to get what was at that time an international "scoop"—an hour-long interview with Yegor Ligachev.

Caputo is 60 years old. He is married with three children, speaks five languages fluently, and has an indomitable passion for sailing (he participated in the first round-the-world event in 1973). He has a long journalistic and writing career behind him (he won the Hemingway Prize for his reports from war-torn Kuwait and has written three books devoted to Italian domestic politics, one of them significantly entitled *The Downtrodden Citizen* [Bednyaga-grazhdanin]). He is one of the "new people" who have come to the fore of Italian politics on the wave of the Forza Italia movement, which has proclaimed that its aim is to fight total irresponsibility and corruption. Already the new deputy minister, who is responsible for Italy's European affairs, has at least two successful diplomatic operations to his credit—the Cairo talks which made it possible to secure the votes of "non-aligned" needed for Italy's admission to the UN Security Council 1 January next year, and the signing of a treaty on partnership between the European Union [EU] and Ukraine.

And so to our interview.

[Khazov] Today, on the eve of the summit meeting in Naples and President Yeltsin's visit to Italy, what in general terms is the Berlusconi government's attitude toward the new Russia?

[Caputo] To us, Russia is a great power which, in tackling difficult problems, is striving to find equilibrium and trying to transform a command economy into a market economy and simultaneously take its proper place in the changed world. This place must correspond to both its historical traditions and its status as a nuclear power.

[Khazov] Does official Rome support Russia's admission to the G-7 or does it support the option which commentators have dubbed "G-7 and a half," where Moscow is cast in the role of the "half"?

[Caputo] We advocate Russia's admission to the G-7 Political Directorate. At the same time we believe that the conditions for your country's full participation in this formation, where the economic factor is overriding, have objectively not yet come about.

[Khazov] What are these conditions?

[Caputo] Above all a sufficient level of market relations, currency convertibility and its known stability, and competitiveness of industry beyond the bounds of customs barriers, that is to say, full compliance with all the requirements made of G-7 participants. This, of course, is not only Italy's opinion, it is the opinion of all G-7 members without exception.

[Khazov] Is it possible to talk of the Berlusconi cabinet's continuity of "Russian" policy?

[Caputo] Of course, there are no radical changes of course and there cannot be any. I would mention as a new element only our government's constant attention to the process of liberalizing the Russian market, which would make your economy more comparable to Western ones. Let us put it this way: Compared with our predecessors we are trying to monitor Russian economic growth trends more seriously.

[Khazov] Some observers are trying to define the degree of Russia's "potential danger" to the Western world and to Europe....

[Caputo] We believe that no danger exists as long as the current Russian leadership keeps firm hold of the reins of government. Yes indeed, we observed Russian diplomacy's first moves in the Bosnian crisis with some concern, but then we appreciated the possible "domestic" nature of this position and thereafter welcomed Russia's mediation. In my view this mediation made it possible to secure from the Serbs something the West would never have secured with its threats. Let us hope that Moscow's desire to cooperate will prevail over the logic of old alliances founded on religious and ethnic factors.

[Khazov] Consequently, can it be assumed that Rome, with its interests in the Balkans and Mediterranean, will be developing special contacts with Moscow regarding this region?

[Caputo] As regards cooperation, this is already taking place in addition to that through official channels. But it must be borne in mind that Italy is a member of NATO and the EU. Therefore it is obliged to synchronize with its allies its actions in relation to Russia. It is also important that our bilateral relations are developed outside the "umbrella" of coordinated policy, especially in the economic, trade, and cultural spheres. From this viewpoint we are mainly hoping for the very rapid modernization of Russian legislation regulating the attraction of foreign investment and favoring the activity of joint enterprises. Without a solution to the problem's legal aspect the Russian market's potential may never materialize in the way that it merits.

[Khazov] How are relations between Italy and other CIS countries developing?

[Caputo] Only yesterday in Luxembourg I and President Kravchuk put our signatures to the treaty on partnership between the EU and Ukraine. It is identical to the one we are shortly to sign with Russia in Corfu. Our relations with Moscow and other CIS capitals will be developed on parallel courses. As objective opportunities occur, partnership agreements will, I hope, be concluded with each of them. In the light of specific local characteristics, naturally: Thus, in the case of Ukraine the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power station is an important factor. But we have no bias toward anyone.

[Khazov] The slogan of the Forza Italia movement, which won an unqualified victory in the recent elections to the European Parliament, was the call: "Italy must mean more in Europe!" What are the ways of achieving this?

[Caputo] First, we want to be more vigorous in protecting our interests in the EU, where our partners, displaying better organizational capabilities, have encroached on them time and again. Second, we want to have greater weight in the "contact committee" for solving the Bosnian crisis. Finally, our membership of the UN Security Council, which we have just practically secured for ourselves, will be of great importance as regards putting the slogan into practice.

[Khazov] What does the Naples summit mean for the Berlusconi government?

[Caputo] Oh, it will be trial by combat. We hope that Naples will give the whole world a chance to see for itself that the new Berlusconi government knows full well what it wants, that it is not a "danger" to the West's stability, as the left-wing press has tried to prove, and finally that it can worthily represent Italy's interests at the highest echelons of world politics.

Chernomyrdin on Plans To Attract Investment

PM2106143194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 21 Jun 94 Evening Edition p 5

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksey Bukalov and Aleksey Golyayev: "We Cannot Live Without One Another. Viktor Chernomyrdin Addresses World Gas Congress"]

[Excerpt] Milan, 20 June—[passage omitted] "Two-and-a-half years of reforms have not been wasted," the Russian premier stated. "I can say with complete confidence that the foundations of economic recovery have been laid and the first signs of changes for the better have already started to appear. We have achieved steady results through our moderately tough financial policy. The inflation rate has been halved, during the period February through May it held steady at 8-10 percent, and by the end of the year we have set ourselves the task of smoothly reducing the inflation rate to 5-7 percent a month."

The head of the Russian Government announced that in 1995 the country will introduce a new tax system which will be clearer and more comprehensible to investors. "It is not impossible, however, that we will be able to achieve a significant easing of the tax burden in the second half of next year," V. Chernomyrdin said, "and right now we are preparing a package of decisions to attract foreign investments. In addition to easing the tax regime and the mechanisms for granting government guarantees, these also comprise a number of legislative acts regulating the procedures for concluding contracts on concessions and the division of output, and also acts designed to stimulate activity by foreign investors in 'free economic zones' on Russian territory." [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Orders Demarcation of Border With Estonia

LD2106131094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1259 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow June 21 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin instructed the government not to wait until a border agreement is signed with Estonia and to demarcate the frontier by December 31, 1994.

"I resolve, before signing a Russian-Estonian border treaty, to unilaterally mark the Estonian section of the Russian state border where it existed on the moment when the Russian Federation recognised the sovereingty of the Estonian Republic on August 24, 1991," said the decree received by TASS on Tuesday.

The decision was adopted "to protect Russian political and economic interests" and also because "of the negative attitude" of Estonia to bilateral demarcation of the border.

Estonia claims some bordering Russian territories.

Kolesnikov: Problems Prompted Edict

LD2206133694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1321 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS news analyst Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow June 22 TASS—It is precisely the border problems with Estonia, which lays claims to part of Russian territory, that prompted Russian President Boris Yeltsin unilaterally to define Russia's state border on terrain by a decree, dated June 21, pending the conclusion on a Russo-Estonian border treaty, Major-General Aleksey Kolesnikov, deputy commander-in-chief of Russia's frontier forces, told ITAR-TASS in an exclusive interview on Wednesday.

Unfortunately, Estonia is dragging out talks on a joint description and designation of the border on terrain in accordance with the universally accepted international practice. This brings about difficulties in the protection of Russian borders. The guarding of borders cannot be exercised if they are not clearly defined, Kozhevnikov said.

As is known, Estonia claims part of Narva district in Leningrad region and Pechora district in Pskov region. This is a territory with an area of 2,300 square kilometers. Nationalist-minded Estonian organisations have repeatedly attempted to set up road barriers on Russia's territory, thereby asserting "a new Russo- Estonian border." Various assemblies and congresses periodically demand that the "historical lands" be handed back to the Estonian side. The president of Russia said a firm "no" to attempts at arbitrarily changing the established borders.

Meanwhile the situation in the border sector remains complex. Attempts to cross the border unlawfully or to smuggle contraband merchandise, including arms and narcotics, continue unabated.

Russian border guards counter the criminals' challenge by adroit arrangements for guard duty and by enhanced cooperation with the customs personnel and law enforcement agencies.

Operations to identify smuggling channels prove resultative. This is evidenced by tens of firearms, hundreds of kilogrammes of narcotics, tonnes of non-ferrous metals, fuel, and art treasures that are intercepted at the border every month.

The accommodation of troops remains a painful problem with the border guards. In the opinion of the deputy commander-in-chief, personnel withdrawn from the Baltics had to begin accommodation arrangements practically from scratch. Estonia did not assign funds for that, although the withdrawn personnel left behind durable buildings and facilities, valuable radar and searchlight equipment, obstructions systems and many other things worth billions of roubles.

The Baltic district was among the Soviet Union's best accommodated ones. All this remains the subject of the talks but there are no constructive solutions so far, General Kozhevnikov said.

As Boris Yeltsin stated when addressing border guards on the eve of their professional holiday, "Russia favours the development of good-neighbourly relations with Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia and wider cooperation with them. But these states are not members of the CIS. Therefore the border regime should be sound and the guarding of the border should be organised accordingly."

'International Community' Caused Bosnia War

PM2106121194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 3

[Interview with Radovan Karadzic conducted by Sergey Sidorov in Moscow; date not given: "There Are Forces which Regard Stability in the Balkans as Disadvantageous, According to Bosnian Serb Leader Radovan Karadzic"]

[Text] Radovan Karadzic is the president of the Serb Republic—a state proclaimed on part of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina after its declaration of independence without the Serb community's agreement. Under this former Yugoslav republic's constitution all questions with a republic-wide dimension were to be tackled solely on the basis of consensus among the three Bosnian communities—Serbs, Muslims, and Croats.

Karadzic is a psychiatrist by profession. He is also a poet and a winner of the Sholokhov literary prize.

[Sidorov] Mr. Karadzic, during more than two years of war in Bosnia talks to end it have been held in various dimensions, as it were. Many prominent politicians, including Western figures, even claim that the international community's more active intervention has merely prolonged the war and increased the suffering of innocent people. What is your forecast: Will the plan proposed by the Washington contact group mark a decisive step toward peace or will the next round of discussions about peace end in a renewed escalation of the war?

[Karadzic] I do consider that the international community is largely to blame for the unleashing of this war. And if that community or, more precisely, the United States decides that it is time to end it, then a solution acceptable to the Serb side will not fail to emerge. If, however, they decide that it is not yet time and that the war should continue, they will propose a remedy that spells catastrophe for the Serbs in Bosnia. In that case the war will continue, and the Serbs will appear to be to blame. We have, alas, had to contend with just such a technique of interference.

During my present visit to Moscow I have been able to see for myself yet again that Russia sincerely wants stability in the Balkans and is ready to support us in our striving for peace. If the United States built its relations with the Muslim side in the same way, there would already be peace in Bosnia. But the Americans are urging the Muslims to seize the greater part of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They are encouraging the Muslim leadership in its ambitions and its desire to dominate in the Balkans. This means in effect continuing this exhausting war. A war by one side to secure an Islamic bridgehead in Europe, while on our side it is a war for survival....

[Sidorov] How are relations shaping up inside the Croat-Muslim Federation, created through U.S. mediation? Does it have any prospects?

[Karadzic] We do not think it has any serious prospects. The deep-rooted conflicts between the Muslims and the Catholic Croats constitute a separate and pretty extensive topic. The Americans have restored the Croat-Muslim alliance not so much to reconcile the Croats and the Muslims, who have fought each other over the last year, as to recreate an anti-Serb front. I am, unfortunately, forced to say that some American circles are openly working for war. The war is now in their hands, and they refuse to let peace and stability prevail in the Balkans....

[Sidorov] Tell me, have you come to that standpoint recently or have you held it since the start of the war?

[Karadzic] We had our suspicions. But over time we became convinced of the following: As soon as the sides came close to a common solution, the Americans, who had started to pretend that they wholly supported the Muslims, would enter the "game." And that would prompt the Muslims to continue the war.

[Sidorov] If that is so, what, in your view, might be the next step by the United States on this plane?

[Karadzic] As I have already said, an attempt to impose terms unacceptable—absolutely unacceptable—to the Serbs. If the United States does actually want peace, then at least half of its initiatives will be acceptable to us and half not. Let the terms be equally disadvantageous to the Muslims and to us.

[Sidorov] As far as I recall, the Washington contact group's plan, that is to say the division of territory between the Serb community and the Croat-Muslim Federation in a 49:51 ratio, does not suit the Serb side, as you hold 70 percent of the territory.

[Karadzic] That formula does indeed fail to suit us because prior to the war 64 percent of the territory belonged to Serbs. We did not start the war and we have not lost it either. Why, then, should the Serbs have less territory after the war than before? Yet we are ready to surrender something in the interests of peace. We will surrender the 10 percent of the territory which is not ours. We are holding on to it at the moment in the interests of defense. But we are also ready to surrender Serb land provided there is peace. To break the deadlock we could even accept the 49:51 formula provided that an exchange of territory—quality for quantity—subsequently took place.

[Sidorov] Does that mean that it is far from being a matter of numbers and percentages?

[Karadzic] It is not just a matter of them. Discussion should also proceed in terms of the viability of the states formed in place of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina. Of course, the conditions for viability are important not just for the Croat-Muslim state but also for ours. After all, if the international community were to accept the arguments of one side and ignore those of the other, that would be an obvious injustice. Our terms are as follows: the mouth of the Una river, a sufficiently wide corridor in the Posavina, and the rejection of any border along the Drina river, which was a symbol of the Serbs' separation (half the Serbs were in the Austro-Hungarian empire and half in Serbia). In addition, we need our part of Sarajevo and access to the sea.

[Sidorov] But you know that these terms are regarded as unacceptable by the Muslim side.

[Karadzic] No, I consider that if they were in favor of peace they would accept these terms, as they pose no threat to the security of their state.

[Sidorov] How do you now rate the state of contacts with Moscow?

[Karadzic] We feel that Russia—particularly the people—understands us. The government is in a difficult position. Russia cannot afford to get into conflict with the West, but we do not want that either. For us Moscow's objectivity is the main thing. The Russian government really can play the role of mediator, as it understands both us and the Muslims. Unfortunately, the United States demonstrates a different approach.

We have no right to ask Russia to intercede in everything, but it is in Russia's own interests to see that the Serbs always have been and remain the country's most consistent allies in the Balkans. And we are, after all, now paying the price for our traditional friendship with Russia. By dividing the Serb people and weakening their state system the West has always sought to weaken Russia in some hypothetical conflict. The double standards which Western countries and Turkey are demonstrating in Balkan affairs—in their assessments, say, of the actions of the Croat-Muslim and Serb sides—cannot be explained any other way.

[Sidorov] What do you think of the intentions of your opponents—the leaders of the Muslim community? Do you concede that they are sincere in their desire for peace for their own people?

[Karadzic] We are convinced, unfortunately, that our opponents are essentially not seeking peace. These are politicians of a fundamentalist, pro-Iranian persuasion. They have already promised their coreligionists in Sudan and Iran that they will take all of Bosnia-Herzegovina under their control and become a member of the Islamic Conference. This despite the fact that there are fewer Muslims than Christians in Bosnia.... Not so long ago Nijaz Durakovic, former leader of the Bosnian Communists, said that the Bosnian Muslims would be the best terrorists among the Islamic revolutionaries because they look like Europeans. Alija Izetbegovic expressed himself in similar vein a few days ago.

I have to say that we are facing the first threat of Islamic fundamentalism in Europe—the first but not the last. Europeans' heads will continue to ache from what has happened in Bosnia.

EU Cooperation Accord Almost Ready for Signing

LD2106193494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1855 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] The agreement on partnership and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the European Union (EU) is practically ready for signing. On June 23 after the document is coordinated in all ten languages of the contracting parties, it will be initialled by the heads of the delegations participating in the talks, the Russian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations told Interfax.

The signing ceremony will take place in the Church of Saint George on the Greek island of Corfu on June 24 at 10:00 in the morning. The agreement will be signed by the Russian president and the EU leadership.

Deputy Chief of the Department of Multilateral Cooperation under the Russian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations Maksim Medvedkov stressed that it had taken two years of tense talks to complete the agreement.

For instance, the unwillingness of the EU to improve the conditions for Russian goods entering its markets was quite a problem. Discord concerning export of Russian uranium and activities of EU banks in Russia also hampered the talks.

The present talks helped to resolve these issues in general.

The agreement provides for mutual application of the basic principles of GATT in trade with certain exception made for nuclear materials on which a separate agreement will be concluded by 1997.

A total of five EU banks which were given authorization for operations with Russian residents but failing to use it due to a presidential decree restricting activities of foreign banks issued in November, 1993, will be given their rights back.

In what concerns other banks, during the period of transition Russia will keep the right to apply to them certain restrictions defined by the agreement. In particular, the agreement said that the share of foreign capital in the banking system of Russia must not exceed 12 pct. The restrictions also concern the number of branches of foreign banks and their right for operations with residents.

Medvedkov stressed that the agreement on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the EU provided for gradual integration of the Russian economy with the single European economic space. The principles used within the scope of the EU for the free movement of goods, capital and services and of establishment of companies and their activities, will be step by step implemented in the countries which have joined the agreement.

The EU is the biggest economic partner for Russia. The share of the trade turnover with the EU is 35 pct of Russia's trade turnover with the far abroad. The share of the EU in Russian export is 36 pct.

Zhirinovskiy To Visit Iraq in October

LD2106193994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1855 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Zhirinovskiy, Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] leader, intends to take a trip to Iraq in October on invitation from the Arab Social Revival Party, Interfax was informed by the press secretary of the LDPR in the State Duma Grigoriy Serebryanikov.

He noted that along with Zhirinovskiy, several other members of the lower house of parliament also intend to make the trip.

According to Serebryanikov, Zhirinovskiy sent U.S President Clinton a letter which informed that a plane with Russian parliamentarians would land in Baghdad, at the Iraqi capital's airport. Serebryanikov explained that this was done so that a desire to "shoot down the airplane" does not creep up on the Americans.

Kozyrev Notes Lack of Single Foreign Economic Strategy

LD2106172594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1544 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Tamara Zamyatina, Vladimir Smelov, and Viktor Khrekov]

[Text] Moscow June 21 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry is ready and can help exports of Russian goods to the world market, however, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations does not help the Foreign Ministry in this respect, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told a meeting of editors-in-chief of Russian mass media bodies here today.

That is why, the Foreign Ministry does not even know what state is the most efficient economic partner for Russia, he added.

In the words of Andrey Kozyrev, a single state strategy for Russian entrance to the world market has not been elaborated since the time of Eduard Shevardnadze was Soviet foreign minister. "If we receive a corresponding concept from the minister of foreign economic relations, we could act in the Russian economic interests. Politics always influences the economy," said Kozyrev.

Communications Agreement Signed With PRC

LD2106172894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Russia and China ended talks in Moscow on Tuesday by signing an agreement for cooperation in the area of communications.

The two sides are committed to help improve their communications networks and postal services, ensure the transit of all types of communications and postal dispatches through each other's territory and provide better legal regulation.

Russia and China are planning to increase the number of telecommunication links from 30 to 90 by the end of this year and largely reduce the need for third countries in this sphere, Russian Communications Minister Vladimir Bulgak told reporters in Moscow. The number of links, telephone and other, will eventually be increased to 250 to meet the two countries' needs, he said.

The two countries reaffirmed the intention to let Beijing hook up to Russia's transiberian fiber optic communications due to go into operation in 1996. For its part, China is to install communications from Harbin to Khabarovsk and Nakhodka and from Heihe to Blagoveshensk.

Joint Naval Exercises With U.S. End

LD2106172494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0837 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok, 21 Jun—The Russian-U.S. exercises ended today on the shores of Slavyanskiy Bay in southern Maritime Kray. Marine subunits from the Russian Pacific Fleet and from the crew of the American amphibious vessel Dubuque, which has been visiting the Far East, participated in the exercises.

Two columns of "amphibians" landing from the Russian and U.S. vessels met precisely at midday at a crossroads that led to a previously prepared training ground. After receiving orders from the command point, they marched rapidly to the training site, where, according to a plan developed by representatives of the Pacific Fleet headquarters and the Dubuque command, it was necessary to immediately clear up the consequences of a hypothetical earthquake.

In the "natural disaster" area, which lay in ruins, a support group was already at work and equipment was being used. Powerful machines that had been carried off the vessels started moving the rubble and putting out fires. A flow of the "dead" and "injured" started arriving at the evacuation points, where they were put on helicopters and immediately taken to hospitals.

But the most interesting and exciting moment was the landing of the assault force. A stormy wind and waves created serious obstacles for the assault force, but the Russian armed vehicles and the U.S. amphibious vehicles carried out the assault across the water barrier and easily "captured" the prescribed area of land. Their reward was praise from the leaders of the exercises: Vice Admiral Igor Khmelnov, deputy commander of the Pacific Fleet, and David Baze, brigadier general of the U.S. Navy [name and title as received].

Both sides believe it is necessary to regularly carry out exercises like these on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, both in Russia and in the United States.

Yeltsin To Decide on New Exercises With U.S.

LD2206114994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has not passed his final decision regarding the joint Russian-American exercises scheduled for this summer on the Totsk test range in the Orenburg Region. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev reported about this to our Interfax correspondents Wednesday. Grachev made the statement after the ceremony of placing wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier near the Kremlin Wall by the leadership of the Russian Defense Ministry, due to the 53rd anniversary since the beginning of the Great Patriotic War - WWII.

"If we reject the joint Russian-American exercises on the Totsk test range, we shall loose from the political point of view," declared Grachev.

Despite a negative attitude towards these exercises on the part of the State Duma, Grachev is convinced that "the exercises should be conducted on the Totsk test range." He reported that he had sent a letter to State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin explaining his position. "These are not combined arms exercises but peacekeeping ones," Grachev emphasized.

He pointed out that the total number of Russian armed forces participating in peace-making operations, including 3000 peacekeepers in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, is not more than 20,000 people.

Grachev noted that understaffed detachments of land forces pose major problems to the Russian army. He explained the lack of soldiers by a weak legal base for the call up and inappropriate financing. The main thing what the army needs from the state is "to give money and to give people," Grachev said.

"Currently we have not enough funds or forces in order to create the army about which we dream, however, the might of our army is growing with every passing day and I think that it will revive in a year of two," Grachev said.

Clinton Commitment To U.S. Military Strength Noted

PM2106144994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 3

[Report by Manki Ponomarev: "Bill Clinton: The Armed Forces Will Be Provided With Everything"]

[Text] Not so long ago I wrote about U.S. President Bill Clinton's statement during an international television linkup in which he outlined the three main components of his foreign policy to many millions of viewers. Then the head of the White House placed in first place the postulate that U.S. military strength must be maintained "at the proper level."

Clinton reaffirmed his adherence to this postulate at a meeting with the crew of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier George Washington. The President reminded the sailors listening to him that, despite the ending of the Cold War, there are still numerous sources of military threat in the world. "We have to resolve tasks which remain complex," he said, "maybe not opposing armies which threaten our existence but defending our security and expanding the boundaries of blessed freedom."

In setting the armed forces tasks, the leader of the Washington administration emphasized that it is very important for the United States to support its military-industrial complex, "because to this day it defends the security of the greatest nation in the history of the world." Therefore, as President, he is full of "immutable, absolute" determination to provide servicemen with everything they require to efficiently fulfill their mission. "You deserve this," Bill Clinton declared, addressing the entire personnel of the U.S. Armed Forces from on board the aircraft carrier. "We need your devotion to the cause. We need your talent."

Kozyrev Says Retired Troops Pose No Threat to Baltics

LD2106132594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1308 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Moscow June 21 TASS—Most Russian retired military living in the Baltic states are elderly people and pose no threat to the security of the countries, according to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev who also said that the fact is clearly understood by the Baltic leaderships who, however, "remain hostages of the political situation".

80 per cent of the pensioners are over 60. "They have nowhere to leave and pose no threat to the national security. Besides, they receive pensions from the Russian Defence Ministry", Kozyrev told Russian mass media chiefs on Tuesday.

"Leaders of the Baltic republics are intelligent people and clearly realise that the problem is artificial. However, they remain hostages of the political situation", Kozyrev said and added that he is pessimistic about an early solution of the problem of Russian retired military living in Estonia.

The main Russian task is that "military pensioners in the Baltics are not offended and humiliated", the minister stressed.

Yeltsin Receives UNESCO Chief, Presents Award

LD2206090594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0846 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow June 22 TASS—President Boris Yelisin received Mr Federico Mayor, director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), in the Kremlin on Wednesday and presented the Peoples' Friendship Order to him "for a big contribution to the development of international intellectual cooperation in the name of peace and progress", the presidential press service announced.

Yeltsin reaffirmed Russia's invariable support for this international organisation as a unique forum for international cooperation in culture, science, education and communications. Considering democratic processes in Russia, Yeltsin emphasised his interest in a success of UNESCO's world culture programme.

The UNESCO chief told the Russian president in detail about UNESCO activities in the coming year 1995 which has been designated by UNESCO as the year of tolerance.

UNESCO Chief on Contacts With Russia

LD2106125094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1206 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By an ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow June 21 TASS—UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor began his visit to Moscow with talks with Russian minister of science and technology and head of the Russian commission of UNESCO Affairs Boris Saltykov. During his first working day, the UNESCO chief is also scheduled to meet patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Aleksiy II, mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov and Russian mass media officials.

Federico Mayor is a leading Spanish scientist and biochemist. He has written over 50 scientific works, member of several academies, and a noted political worker. Mayor has been at the helm of the prestigious specialized organization in the U.N. system for the past more than six years. UNESCO helps strengthen peace, security and cooperation among the people in the field of education, science and culture.

Before beginning his current visit to Russia, in an interview with ITAR-TASS, Federico Mayor emphasised that he would like to see closer interaction between the two sides in the reconstruction and modernization of the Hermitage museum in St. Petersburg, and the Russian state library and the Bolshoy theatre complex in Moscow.

Favouring everyday contacts with Russia, Mayor intends to take part in the opening ceremony of a UNESCO bureau in the Russian capital. According to him, the international organization can make use of Russia's experience in its own activities.

The UNESCO director-general is expected to be received by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday.

Visit Aims To Improve Relations

LD2106143994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1424 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow June 21 TASS—Negotiations of UNESCO Director- General Federico Mayor and representatives of Russian scientific and cultural elite held today at the Russian Ministry for Science and Technical Policy aimed to give a fresh impetus to the UNESCO-Russian efforts in education, culture and science and discuss cooperation in communications.

The UNESCO director-general is currently in Russia on an official visit to receive a people's friendship order from Russian President Boris Yeltsin and attend the opening ceremony of the UNESCO Moscow office.

The Russian delegation to the negotiations included Minister of Science and Technical Policy Boris Saltykov, Ministers of Culture and Education Yevgeniy Sidorov and Yevgeniy Tkachenko and Vice- President of the Russian Academy of Sciences Academician Rem Petrov.

The sides agreed on international conferences in Russia under the UNESCO aegis, UNESCO support to Russian efforts to reform secondary education and the Russian intellectual contribution to international projects. Mayor stressed that the Russian intellectual potential cannot be called into question. UNESCO and Russia will hold the second world congress on information science and education in 1996.

Upon the negotiations completion Federico Mayor and Rector of the Russian State Institute for International Relations Anatoliy Torkunov signed an agreement to create a human rights department at the institute.

Federico Mayor told ITAR-TASS that three years ago they signed a memorandum on interaction to confirm bilateral cooperation in education, science, culture and communications. Then three major projects were outlined. The first one was related to the support to the Bolshoy theatre, the second concerned the state library, and the third concerned the Petersburg hermitage. At the same time, UNESCO would like to develop close relations with the Russian scientific community.

Today the sides discussed the results of bilateral efforts within the past year on all the three projects.

UNESCO has allocated 500,000 U.S. dollars to finance various Russian projects, including the activities of research centers, schools and programs of Russian-language studies.

Gromov Discusses Arms Reduction in Germany

LD2106143394 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 21 Jun 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast; accompanying video carries VoyenTV attribution]

[Text] [Correspondent A. Bondarenko, identified by caption] Russian Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Boris Gromov had a meeting today with representatives of the sub-committee for disarmament and arms control of the FRG Bundestag. Questions of arms reduction—primarily nuclear and chemical—in Europe were discussed. This process is important and essential but every one of us is worried lest it become a one-way street. Might it not end up with us, alone, destroying our arsenal, while the West actively assists us, leaving its own untouched?

[Begin Gromov recording] Parity in disarmament is maintained in line with signed agreements and treaties. We, naturally, could not have a situation where we would sign a treaty concerning, for example, the elimination of chemical weapons, that was detrimental to us and our defense capability. [end recording]

Volskiy, Kuchma Call for 'Effective Economic Union'

PM2106151594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 2

["Own Information" report: "Toward Economic Union"]

[Text] A routine meeting has taken place in Kiev between delegations from the Russian and Ukrainian Unions of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, led by the presidents of these unions, Arkadiy Volskiy and Leonid Kuchma. Though directors of industrial enterprises and production companies participated in it, it definitely had a direct bearing on agriculture. After all, the severance of economic ties between Russia and Ukraine also hit rural areas hard.

As we know, when the USSR collapsed, production of row-crop tractors remained in Ukraine and Belorussia [Belarus] while production of grain-harvesting combines remained in Russia. What is more, the "Rostselmash" plant receives diesel engines from Kharkov. As a result the slightest failure in the delivery of parts from Russia to the Kharkov "Serp i Molot" plant may lead to its shutdown, and this will disrupt the production of grain-harvesting combines, which in turn may disrupt agricultural work in Ukraine. Russia will also have a hard time.

The meeting's participants came to the unanimous decision that the only way out of the present situation is to form an effective economic union. They adopted an Appeal to the Presidents, Parliaments, and Governments of Ukraine and Russia containing a demand to do everything in their power to create appropriate conditions of economic integration between the two countries.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who received Arkadiy Volskiy and Leonid Kuchma, was familiarized with the document.

Officer on Ukraine Proposal of Joint Fleet Command

LD2106164594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] In an interview with INTERFAX a high-ranking officer of the Russian Navy Staff commented on the proposal of the speaker of the Ukrainian parliament Aleksandr Moroz to set up a joint command of Russian and Ukrainian fleets in the Black Sea and said it requires serious clarification.

If NATO is used as a model, Moscow could closely study, for instance, the appointment of a supreme commander of naval forces in the Black Sea who would be an operational commander of both fleets, the officer said. He added that in this case the supreme commander would be appointed by Russia.

In his opinion another option is also possible: the operational subordination of the Ukrainian navy to the Black Sea Fleet.

Earlier Ukraine had insisted on the approval of a supreme commander by the presidents of the two countries. The commander was supposed to have one deputy from Ukraine and another from Russia.

Russo-German Joint Naval Exercises in Baltic Described

PM2106161994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 3

[Report by Captain First Rank Valeriy Gromak: "First Russian-German Exercise in History Held Abeam Ruegen Island"]

[Text] When fire broke out on board a German missile fast attack craft and the crew were unable to cope with it on their own, the commander of the Hermelin put out an SOS. In a matter of minutes the Baltic Fleet's patrol combatant Neustrashimyy sent its own emergency rescue party to fight the fire, and it at once began localizing the flames. At the same time the Russian patrol combatant's lookout noticed someone floundering in the waves not far from the German craft. Captain Second Rank Igor Ryzhkov, commander of the Neustrashimyy, sent up a rescue helicopter piloted by Lieutenant Colonel Aleksandr Petrov. From on board the helicopter Majors Anatoliy Lysenko and Andrey Goncharov lowered rescue paramedic Ensign Vasiliy Yakubovskiy, who returned to the helicopter with a drowning German sailor ("This was the happiest day of my life," Seaman Wolfgang Weitsaecker would later remark). It took the helicopter crew just 38 seconds to rescue the drowning man.

In the evening, on board the Westerwald, the base for the German missile fast attack craft, where the first day of the exercises was being analyzed, the Hermelin's commander made the following comment on that episode: "We must learn from the Russian helicopter pilots." I am sorry to say that at that moment I thought the German commander was flattering us. But I had to abandon that thought the very next day. Spending five hours on board the German missile fast attack craft Hyaene, I saw for myself the skill of the German sailors and the fact that at sea they work flat out. If they assess their own work and that of others, then they do not cast their words to the wind.

For example, a Sea King helicopter was lifting Western journalists off a fast attack craft traveling at 12 knots: 12 takeoffs in 15 minutes. Or take this breathtaking sight: An attack aircraft was in a screaming dive against a missile fast attack craft moving at 33 knots. Just when the Tornadoes [as published] seemed ready to hit the target, the attack craft executed an abrupt antiaircraft maneuver....

Eleven ships and several aircraft took part in the first bilateral naval exercise in the Baltic in the history of Russia and Germany. On the German side were new missile fast attack craft and modern minesweepers. The Russian Navy was represented by the patrol combatant Neustrashimyy, the Baltic Fleet's latest ship.

"In these exercises we had three goals," Rear Admiral Hans Lyussov [name as published], chief of staff of the German Navy, told KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent. "The first goal is political—to demonstrate to our population joint work. The second goal is military, since we are military people—to jointly rehearse tasks in a regime of full trust. The third goal is to learn from each other. All three of these tasks have been successfully fulfilled."

Vice Adm. Viktor Litvinov, deputy commander of the Baltic Fleet and the senior officer in the exercises on the Russian side, in turn confirmed: "These 48 hours of exercises were useful to both sides. We have gotten to know each other better...."

Of course, as in anything new, problems could not be avoided. Before my eyes a glitch occurred during the exercise in the work of the Neustrashimyy's primary control station: The watch officer was unable to decode a signal transmitted from the German missile fast attack craft Puma. It turned out that the command was being transmitted according to the NATO signal code, which, naturally, is not used on Russian warships. Therefore special bilateral signals will be used in the future when holding other Russian-German exercises.

I do not know what conclusions politicians will draw from this naval exercise, but the sailors' conclusions are obvious: At sea it is important to be friends.

Rybkin, Belarus Official Discuss Closer Unity

LD2106175194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Speaker of the lower house of the Russian parliament Ivan Rybkin and the deputy chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Vyacheslav Kuznetsov spoke for closer unity between their two countries in Moscow on Tuesday. Kuznetsov is convinced that with time "we are going to advance from the Commonwealth of Independent States to a union of independent states" setting up a super-national body with coordinating and controlling powers.

In his opinion no matter who is going to be elected Belarusian president on Thursday the parliament will firmly pursue a policy of economic integration between independent states.

At the present stage Ivan Rybkin finds it necessary to work for unified, standardized legislation for CIS countries in order to ease integration. He is convinced that the experience of unified Europe, its common bodies and conforming legislation should be used.

Rybkin said that last week the Duma supported the idea of a parliamentary meeting of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine to discuss the results of the 1991 agreement on the formation of the CIS. "The evaluation of the situation should be realistic so that our future steps can be adequate," Rybkin declared.

On July 5 the Duma committee for CIS affairs will hold hearings on the same subject. Rybkin invited Belarusian counterparts to attend.

In return the Belarusian side invited Russian MPs to take part in festivities on the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus on July 3.

Deputies Tour S. America To Promote Economic Ties

PM2206133594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 3

[Report by RIA NOVOSTI correspondent Nikolay Venediktov "specially for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI" under "Contacts" rubric: "Time To Stake Claims. What Russian Parliamentarians Became Convinced of in Latin America"]

[Text] Russia is ready for partnership relations with South America. Convincing the Latin Americans of this was the main task of a Federation Council delegation's official visit to Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, and Ecuador.

The purpose of creating a political climate in Latin America favorable to Russia is meant to facilitate the development of mutually advantageous economic and trade relations between our countries. The great potential of the region, which occupies 13 percent of the globe's land mass with a population of around 450 million people, the complementarity of our economies, and the similarity of our economic and sociopolitical processes are preconditions for this. All the leaders of the countries that the delegation visited spoke of the need to organize strategic collaboration with Russia. The Brazilian president, for example, noted that "this is needed to prevent the creation of a unipolar world." The Brazilians let it be clearly known that it is time for Russia to "stake its claims" in Latin America. Unless it lays a long-term basis for Russian-Latin American relations, the region's leading countries will quite soon "reach the peak of the world hierarchy without taking Russian priorities along with them."

Meetings with representatives of Latin American countries' business circles demonstrated their readiness to cooperate with Russia primarily in the sphere of private enterprise. Here they stressed the importance of the "sponsorship" of future projects by presidents, foreign ministries, and other official state authorities. The Russian side also believes that relations in the private sector can to some extent compensate for the transitional difficulties in foreign economic ties with Latin America associated with the crisis in the previous model of the Russian economy.

In order to facilitate these contacts there must be a renewal of the legal and treaty base of relations with Latin American countries. Treaties have already been concluded with a number of them, and memorandums have been adopted on the principles of bilateral cooperation. Draft agreements on protecting investment and avoiding double taxation are being elaborated with many of them. These questions have been repeatedly raised at meetings between the Russian delegation and their Latin American colleagues and entrepreneurs. They are very important as regards developing trade and increasing the volume of investment in the Russian economy.

The Latin American market is also fruitful for Russia from the viewpoint of high technology. Venezuela has great experience in the sphere of oil extraction and refining, and it is recommissioning once-abandoned wells by using the latest technologies. Brazil is ready to cooperate with us in the aerospace and nuclear power generating spheres.

Finally, we must not forget Peru, Nicaragua, and Cuba—Russia's debtors. We must seek a settlement in relations with these countries in order to recover the people's billions: These countries' total debt is estimated at over $20 billion.

The changes that have taken place in the world are forcing Russia to look at the former Third World in a different way. The countries of this vast region in the Western Hemisphere will no longer be an arena for rivalry between the "superpowers." At any rate, for as long as a democratic Russia exists.

Political Issues

Procedure in Drafting Anticrime Edict Reported

LD2106164894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] The anti-crime decree was drafted in 24 hours and was signed by President Yeltsin in the morning of June 15, shortly before his departure to the Far East, a well-informed Kremlin source told Interfax. He said that the idea of taking urgent additional measures to combat organized crime had been initiated by the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS), and that the Interior Ministry had insisted that it be documented in a decree, not in a law.

He also said that in the middle of June, FCS Director-General Sergey Stepashin sent a letter to President Yeltsin urging him to draft a law on amending and enlarging the Criminal Code and submitting it to the State Duma. Concurrently, the idea was proposed of passing a decree on measures to step up the campaign against organized crime.

The source maintains that the decree provided for measures which did not go beyond the president's constitutional powers. Other measures were to be implemented after the parliament adopted the draft law submitted by the president.

In actual fact, another version, proposed by Interior Minister Viktor Yerin and by his first deputy Mikhail Yegorov, was adopted. In a slightly softened form, this version was used as the foundation for the presidential decree.

The source said that the draft decree had been signed by the FCS's First Deputy Director-General Anatoliy Safonov, not by Stepashin who left for the Far East on June 13.

Shumeyko Proposes Constitutional Amendments

LD2106175494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Speaker of the upper house of Russian parliament, the Federation Council (FC), Vladimir Shumeyko says deputies are unhappy about parts of the federal constitution dealing with the upper house and parliament as a whole.

In a report on the FC's role and place in overcoming critical situations on Tuesday, Shumeyko also pointed to a lack of organization by the parliamentary committees, leadership and its staff.

He said the constitutionally-enshrined power of the Council for law making was its "most powerful weapon". To invigorate Council activity, Shumeyko proposed amending articles 104 and 105 of the federal constitution to enable the Council to bring bills in the Federal Assembly both the through the lower house and independently.

This, he said, can help relieve the State Duma of the burden of law making and distribute bills evenly between the two houses to help on the legislative process.

Shumeyko pointed to what made the Council and Duma different from each other. Unlike the Duma which is the arena of power struggle and compromise between different political and party interests, he said, the upper house represents the interests of Russian autonomies and regions.

In his view, Russia is undergoing a cultural rather than economic or political crisis. Shumeyko said that as the supreme legislative body, the Federation Council was designed to exploit the idea of statehood and patriotism to strengthen rather than overhaul the existing establishment.

Latest Presidential Appointments Viewed

MK2206070094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 22 Jun 94 p 3

[Report by Veronika Kutsyllo: "Operations Department Created in the Apparatus"]

[Text] Under a series of edicts signed Monday by Boris Yeltsin, Nikolay Medvedev has been replaced by Aleksandr Kazakov as chief of the Presidential Staff Administration for Work With Territories; Vladimir Zaytsev, first deputy chief of the Control Administration, has been appointed acting chief of this administration; Vladimir Varov has become Russia's chief labor inspector; and finally an Operations [operativnyy] Department has been created in the staff itself.

Apparently the presidential "reshuffle" edicts should not be scrutinized for signs of just another apparatus overhaul. Some of them were prepared long ago: For instance, Vladimir Zaytsev's appointment as Russia's chief controller or Vladimir Varov's nomination as the country's chief labor inspector. It is not yet clear exactly what the Russian Federal Labor Inspectorate will do: Whether Varov will be tasked with verifying the correct maintenance of work record books or whether he will conduct on-site checks at enterprises. But it would be unreasonable to expect any serious changes in Russian politics as a result of this appointment.

That Nikolay Medvedev's days as chief of the Administration for Work With Territories were numbered has been known for a long time. Having failed to establish proper contacts with the regions, Medvedev, after the March reorganization of the staff, was not confirmed as administration chief and has remained acting head throughout this time. His departure was inevitable and did not evoke any protest either from the administration's staff or from deputies of parliament's upper chamber: heads of the regions. Commenting at KOMMERSANT-DAILY's request on Medvedev's fate, a member of the Federation Council leadership observed "It is high time," while another crossed himself.

Therefore the only surprise was the appointment to this post of Aleksandr Kazakov rather than any of the regional aspirants. Before the edict Kazakov worked in the government as Anatoliy Chubays' deputy. True, according to comments from his colleagues, the new administration chief dealt with privatization mainly "in the regional sphere" and therefore is well acquainted with regional problems. Nonetheless, he will clearly take a long time to restore the administration's reputation in the eyes of the regional rulers.

Perhaps the most mysterious of these edicts was the decision to create in the staff an Operations Department which, according to the official version, will be responsible for processing incoming and outgoing presidential documents. The name of the candidate for the post of the president's chief operations officer is not being disclosed yet. Until recently all paperwork has been handled by the President's Chancellery, headed by Valeriy Semenchenko. No one in the Presidential Staff could explain yesterday what exactly will happen now: Whether Semenchenko will have his hands freed to deal with other presidential affairs or whether, quite the contrary, he has been sidelined.

From the Statute on the Administration for Work With Territories

The administration's tasks include ensuring interaction between the president and the bodies of state power and administration in the republics, krays, oblasts, autonomous oblasts, autonomous districts, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg

Commentary by Federation Council Deputy Chairman Ramazan Abdulatipov

"I do not understand what the administration does. It is not clear whether it is supposed to brief the president about what is going on in the regions, or coordinate the activity of various departments, or convey federal government decisions to the regions. The administration's status and powers have not been defined."

Varennikov Claims Gorbachev Ill in Aug 1991

LD2206083794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0816 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Shcherban]

[Text] Moscow June 22 TASS—A leader of the abortive Soviet coup of 1991 insisted on Wednesday that former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was ill at the time.

"In August 1991 Mikhail Gorbachev was badly ill both in the physical and morally-psychologic aspects," former Soviet Deputy Defence Minister Valentin Varennikov told the trial on Wednesday.

Varennikov is the only coup organiser who rejected the Duma-proclaimed amnesty and insisted that his case be investigated by court.

Gorbachev's alleged illness was used by the coup plotters to explain the isolation of the president. Gorbachev himself had rejected the allegations.

Varennikov admitted that communications with the state residence in Foros in the Crimea where Gorbachev was staying had been cut off, but explained it by the desire not to disturb the president during his talks with the coup plotters.

"Constant calls could have distracted Gorbachev" from talks with the ringleaders who arrived to Foros to get a go-ahead from the president for the introduction of a state of emergency in the country.

Varennikov rejected the accusation that the communications had been cut off to isolate Gorbachev.

Dmitriy Semenov Heads New 'Lefsha' Party

LD2106152494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0957 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—A party with an unusual name—"Lefsha" [left-hander]—has been registered at Russia's Justice Ministry. Dmitriy Semenov, the president of the new political association, told ITAR-TASS that: The party intends to defend the interests of qualified wage labor workers. It consists of qualified industrial and agricultural workers, scientific-technical and cultural intelligentsia, students, and professional military.

We are for forming a middle class in Russia, which, as is known, consists not only of medium and small owners but what is more important, of qualified and highly-paid workers, the party's president said.

In keeping with its program, the party will seek to gain power constitutionally, in order to carry out a realistic reform in the interests of wage labor workers. The aim of the party is a legislative reform of social and labor relations.

The party has started preparations for its nationwide congress, which is to take place at the end of September-beginning of October 1994.

Gaydar Views Threats of Russian Fascism

BR2106111594 Paris LIBERATION in French 20 Jun 94 p 6

[Article by Yegor Gaydar, former Russian prime minister, now a member of the democratic opposition to Boris Yeltsin: "The Real Fascist Threat in Russia"]

[Text] Did the chaos of 4 October 1993 suffice to open a period of calm, however precarious, in Russia? And if a crisis arose, who would benefit from it? In all hypothetical cases, we find the sinister "brown factor," without which a major political accident is unlikely, although fascism (hard or soft, brown or red- brown) would be the death of Russia, a disaster equal to that of 1917. The events on 3 and 4 October were a warning. Before that, who could have believed that the legal or even legalist opposition would hold out its hand to avowed Nazis, to Barkashov's gangsters (Footnote) (Aleksandr Barkashov, 41 years old, is the leader of the neo-Nazi Russian National Unity Party, which has a militarized group of party stewards)? Worse still that it would arm them? And yet that is what Khazbulatov, Rutskoy, and the Supreme Soviet did. In a time of crisis, in the name of the government, they thought they could form an alliance with the Nazis, and adopt their methods. This is the decisive political lesson of the present time....

This alliance was seen once again on 12 May during the meeting held by the newspaper ZAVTRA (Tomorrow), the organ of the "radical" opposition, for the launch of the Accord for Russia bloc. Rutskoy, Zorkin, and Baburin warmly applauded Barkashov's opening speech. The passionate support of the fringe elements was backed up by that of part of the country's political establishment, leaders of the parliamentary opposition. On the one side are deputies, chosen by legal ballot, and on the other are fringe elements and Nazis.... Of course, the avowed Nazis have little influence and, at first sight, are the "younger brothers" of the alliance. Seen more closely, however, they are its driving force. This paradox can be explained by the ideological poverty of the moderate nationalists. Despite their statements on "enlightened patriotism," they have never been able to define this concept which, all-in-all, is merely a chocolate filled with red-brown rum. On the other hand, the Nazis do have an ideology. Their watchwords are criminal and stupid, but clear. All the nationalist patriots can do is kneel at the polished boots of the Barkashov militias.

Nazism is a malignant mutation of nationalism. National egoism is as natural as individual egoism. It only becomes aggressive if a feeling of frustration and injustice is added to it. Weimar's Germany is an example of this. The same feeling of lost empire exists in Russia today.

The fall of Communism created an ideological vacuum which the values of the "consumer society" do not fill. They are an insult to a whole mass of people, like an advertisement for unobtainable products. It is at this level that nationalism comes in. The consumerist frustration is "sublimated" in national frustration, which gives it dignity and turns it into an ideology, gives it a spiritual dimension. The social and national frustrations come together producing what is called national-socialism. Remarks made by ordinary people, such as "the Caucasians are taking everything," are turned into ideas, producing "the universal plot against Russia is trying to turn it into a colony of Western, American, or Zionist capitalism." Even if racism proper is rare in Russia, this ideology plays on national and/or social prejudices.

Behind this madness are real problems. As elsewhere, we have an ethnically structured Mafia (in addition to the Russian Mafia proper). On the world markets, there is a merciless struggle. Some circles are openly hostile to Russia and are seeking to isolate it. There is nothing surprising or horrible about that.

Why has Russian society proved more vulnerable than others to the action of the red-brown killer bugs? Have our social structure and our history predisposed us to totalitarianism?

In Central Europe, the totalitarianism imposed by our tanks collapsed once our tanks left. In our country, totalitarianism has been imposed in an endogenic way, produced by our society and our history. In our past, the aspiration to freedom and the rejection of freedom were tragically and indissolubly linked. Bolshevik totalitarianism inherited the autocracy it sought to destroy and carried it to its extreme logical conclusion. The Cheka shot the Black Hundreds but it was their spiritual daughter which surpassed its parents. Another example of the tragic interweaving of the terms of our historical conflict was the wartime watchword: "For the Fatherland, for Stalin." This slogan was developed to become: "For the Fatherland, and for Stalin which is its executioner." Our tragic history weighs heavily on the nation's memory and opposes the emergence of a rational and moderate conservatism. What national values to be defended could a Russian conservatism include in its program? Civilian society? The autonomy of the individual in face of the state? Private property? Yes, all these values exist in our country, but only in an embryonic state. Thus Russian conservatism is sliding, by inertia, toward the "cult of autocracy" and the "policy of the big stick."

And yet, a healthy society must have a strong conservative pole, because that is the most effective curb to keep nationalism within reasonable limits. This healthy Russian nationalism, which would be based on the Russian people's civic rights and on their inalienable right to private property, does not yet exist. We intend to build it if social circumstances permit.

The structure of society is even more important than the psychological traditions. The totalitarian regime has been knocked out but is still standing. The economy is still militarized. The bureaucratic oligarchy still holds the economic and political power. It persists in its desire to return to the past.

The ultimate foundation of a society is formed by relations of ownership and we are still resolving this historical problem for Russia. The move toward capitalism is now irreversible. The problem is whether we want a bureaucratic capitalism or a democratic capitalism. If we opt for the bureaucratic-state option, we are condemning ourselves to stagnation and Russia will merely be a semicolonial supplier of raw materials. This brings us back to the famous "plot against Russia." It is not the "Masonic lodges" which are hatching it, but our own bureaucratic elite in the name of its so-called "sense of state" (but this is a semicolonial state).

The bureaucracy has kept the bulk of the power, particularly in the provinces. Its only interest is to maintain it. Like all the rich, bureaucrats are cautious and fear extremes. That does not prevent them from talking with the Nazis, just in case.

Is it possible that they will opt for the Nazi alliance, thinking that they are "hiring gangsters to serve them," like the Weimar Republic on the eve of its fall?

Only an alliance with the most aggressive party of the bureaucratic bourgeoisie can pave the way to power for the Nazis. Such an alliance was formed in October 1993 with Rutskoy, Khazbulatov, and other members of the former Supreme Soviet. Let us now imagine a mutation on a bigger scale, and we will see the scale of the resulting political disaster.

Fascism in Russia is only possible in the form of a dictatorship exercised by the most aggressive sections of the parasitic "bureaucratic bourgeoisie." The alliance between this bourgeoisie and the Nazis is the main danger which we have to combat. Compared with the fashionable hopes in an "enlightened authoritarianism," my position is clear: There can only be a "good dictatorship" for those who would live happily even with a bad one.

We must counter the possible alliance of the bureaucrats and Nazis with our own alliance of democrats and the liberal bourgeoisie, while neutralizing the most influential sectors of the bureaucracy and, consequently, safeguarding their interests.

Of course, our interests are opposed to those of the bureaucracy: We are in favor of developing the market economy, eliminating the control of the bureaucratic oligarchy over the economy. But, out of principle, we are opposed to a fight to the death. We only envisage such a struggle as necessary and inevitable against the Nazis, and we only mean the term "death" in the political sense. Faced with the bureaucracy and the bourgeoisie linked to it, we are still ready to seek a compromise and pursue our policy so as never to force them into a corner. The essential thing is to avoid an alliance within which, for the bureaucracy, the Nazis are seen as the "lesser evil."

The whole of Russian history shows that, for a coup d'etat to be possible, a situation of dual power is necessary, as was the case in 1917, in August 1991, and in October 1993. The democratic forces must therefore ensure that they never allow such a situation to arise again.

We show our support for Russia's national interests by seeking to ensure that every Russian citizen can have a normal and dignified life, whereas the "nationalists" gauge their patriotism by the yardstick of their hatred of non-Russians, or even with the help of the compasses used to measure the thickness of non-Aryan skulls. We have more of a sense of the fatherland and state than they do and we express this by trusting the people and telling them the truth.

Our dignity lies in our reason. And it is in the light of reason that specters vanish, including the specter of Nazism which is trying to terrorize our fatherland.

Electoral Commission Deputy Interviewed

PM2206092394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jun 94 First Edition pp 1-2

[Interview with A.V. Ivanchenko, deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, by Valentin Maslennikov; place and date of interview not stated: "Will We Manage Without Party Distortions?"]

[Text] The draft law on the basic guarantees of Russian Federation citizens' electoral rights has undergone approbation in the State Duma committees. Soon it will be submitted to a plenary session of parliament's lower chamber. What is its importance and topicality? This question is answered by A.V. Ivanchenko, deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission.

[Ivanchenko] We are waiting impatiently for the draft to acquire the force of law. It is the first in a series of electoral laws which open up a new stage in the reform of the entire electoral system as a whole. On its basis the laws of the Federation components on elections of representative and executive organs of power and local self-management will be adopted. The precise demarcation of the powers of federal and regional legislators essentially begins with this draft. The hands of representatives of power locally are untied. And our law here will guarantee that no one can encroach on the very important right of the citizen to elect and be elected.

The adoption of this law is awaited by the newly elected authorities in the Federation's components. When the law appears they will have a guarantee of the stability of their existence.

[Maslennikov] Whose was the initiative to adopt this law?

[Ivanchenko] It was the initiative of the State Duma committees for the affairs of the Federation and regional policy, for legislation and court and legal reform, and for questions of local self-management. It was they who were the first to voice their concern at the course of the elections in the regions. It was at their insistence that the Duma adopted the decree in which it suggested that the president prepare a draft of this law as a priority and submit it for its examination.

To prepare the law a joint commission was created, which elaborated this draft. It included deputies of the State Duma and Federal Council, and representatives of the Central Electoral Commission and leading scientific institutions. The draft was discussed beforehand in local areas, in particular in Kaluga, Astrakhan, and Khabarovsk. It was approved at seminar-conferences which we have been holding. During this work changes and amplifications were made to it. A number of articles were radically reworked. In my view it is now in a high degree of readiness.

[Maslennikov] Does the draft law really no longer contain any contradictions which could give rise to deputies' objections or disagreement?

[Ivanchenko] That is something which probably never happens in lawmaking practice. Although the absolute majority of members of the conciliation commission support the completed draft law.

We are embarrassed by considerations of a different order, to be more precise the very fierce party allegiances of some deputies. Thus, for instance, Deputy V. Sheynis (an active developer of this draft, incidentally) has recently started to encroach on the procedure for forming the electoral commissions proposed in the future law. The present version provides for equal participation in the appointment of the Central Electoral Commission chairman and his deputy and the commission's secretary and members by the president, Federation Council, State Duma, and components of the Federation. In particular the State Duma makes nominations put forward by the deputies' factions and groups.

But Viktor Leonidovich Sheynis is inclined exclusively toward the party principle for forming commissions. I think he knows full well where this can lead, particularly locally. Instead of a precisely operating commission at best we shall get a debating club. In addition so far our multiparty system is making itself felt more in Moscow but by no means in outlying districts. There, with a party approach toward the formation of commissions, there will probably be organs incapable of working. Practice shows that electoral commissions locally have no taste for debates so they must unfailingly be built on a balance of interests of both representative and executive power. Artificially imposing a multiparty system from above is fraught with the danger of adverse consequences. The equal rights of the candidates will be cancelled out and the interests of voters in single-seat districts will be well and truly ignored. A distortion in the direction of a party bias will unfailingly result in an encroachment on the interests of independent voters and their candidates.

The commissions created on the party principle will not be able to be objective. The legislator must create real and equal guarantees for the rights of voters and candidates and not resurrect the monopoly of any party.

[Maslennikov] Voters have had many complaints against the electoral commissions which obviously delayed the summing up of election results....

[Ivanchenko] That is not their fault. Nor is it the fault of the Central Electoral Commission. The statute on the 1993 elections to the benefit of the capital's party interests excluded from the process of counting votes on party lists not only the rayon and city but also the oblast and kray levels of electoral commissions. And over 100,000 electoral commissions' protocols were taken to Moscow by couriers. Disrespect and distrust was shown toward the regions and the summing up of the results was delayed. In the new law we have striven to avoid blunders of this nature.

[Maslennikov] Is there certainty that the law will be adopted immediately at the first reading?

[Ivanchenko] The enormous volume of work done in advance in the Duma committees permits us to hope so. In addition both the president and the deputies themselves are interested in the law on basic guarantees of voters' rights beginning to operate as soon as possible.

Economic Issues

First Large Enterprises Registered Insolvent

LD2206095294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The first large Russian industrial enterprises have been entered on the state register of insolvency. The list of enterprises was drawn up by the Russian Committee on Machine-Building. About 40 plants were registered. These crisis-ridden plants are unable to pay taxes, settle up with suppliers of raw materials, or pay wages. These enterprises will now have to change the way they run their business or else acknowledge their insolvency and go into voluntary self-liquidation.

Oil Cartel Seeks Monopoly, OPEC Membership

MK2106104094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 3

[Marat Salimov report: "The Regions Have Created an Oil Cartel"]

[Text] The Association for Economic Interaction of Russian Oil and Gas Producing Regions yesterday approved its charter. The oil and gas union sets some fairly ambitions goals. They include the upholding of sectoral interests within the country and moving towards OPEC on the foreign market.

Although there were original fears that the creation of the Association for Economic Interaction of Russian Oil and Gas Producing Regions could be hindered by the contradictions which exist between the regions, a decision to form it was made after all. The new association's weight is enhanced by the fact that Fuel and Energy Ministry Yuriy Shafranik has been elected its president for a year. Therefore the association has ensured itself direct access to the prime minister and the president, which is a direct prerequisite for successful lobbying activity. According to the association's initiators—deputies from oil producing regions and directors of fuel and energy enterprises—the organization will make it possible to actively stand up to the budget favorites of the legislative bodies and the government: the agrarian sector and the social sphere. Although it is an open secret that the fuel and energy complex is the milk cow for both these sectors of the national economy as well as for the state sector, ensuring 60 percent of Russian exports and 40 percent of hard currency budget revenues: With needs of 7.1 trillion rubles, it has received 1.1 trillion in state investments.

However, apart from the functions traditional for such associations (getting money from the budget), the association is laying claim to something more. Under its charter, in addition to direct influence on state economic policy in the energy sphere, its tasks include coordination of the regions' activity in producing, processing, pricing, and marketing oil and gas products. The possibilities for performing these functions are ensured by the association's composition, which includes representatives of Russia's major oil and gas producing regions: Tyumen, Tomsk, Orenburg, and Sakha Oblasts, Khanty-Mansi and Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrugs, and the republics of Bashkiria, Komi, and Tatarstan.

Therefore in the event that agreement is reached between the regions, the association will be able to set monopoly prices for oil and gas products both on the domestic and the CIS market. The essence of its lobbying activity in the Federal Assembly and the government will be to make sure that in the absence of requisite budgetary support, no antimonopoly sanctions are applied against the sector's enterprises. The rationale behind the pricing activity can be very simple: The oil and gas complex has to resolve its financial problems with available market methods, and price control is a forced measure. Besides, the association will have a chance to join the well-known OPEC cartel, which establishes world oil prices, as a nongovernment organization. The association's charter says directly that at the first stage the task is to ensure participation in OPEC as an observer. In the event that OPEC membership is secured, Russian regions will have guaranteed access to the world market and will therefore not need to maintain the volume of export deliveries at the expense of price concessions. So, the Association for Economic Interaction of Russian Oil and Gas Producing Regions presumably can become the first Russian oil cartel with all the inherent functions.

Bank 'Experiment' Averts Miners' Strike

PM2106123194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jun 94 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Successful Experiment"]

[Text] To all appearances the country is no longer threatened by miners' strikes caused by the nonpayments crisis. The specialists from the Russian Coal and Raw Material Mutual [sovmestnyy] Bank have found a way out of the apparent deadlock.

The first "industrial experiment" has already shown the high degree of effectiveness of the decisions which have been found. A financial chain linked the "Vorkutaugol" association, the Novyy Lipetsk metallurgical combine, the Vyksa pipe welders, and the transport workers and oil extraction workers. A clearing accounts procedure has been developed for each enterprise.

Nonetheless it is still too early to rejoice. The country is in acute need of modern financial legislation.

A realistic way out of the situation is the creation of financial and industrial groups. In the coal industry this process has already begun. In the opinion of specialists, the profitability of "buying and selling" operations is receding into the past. Life has shown that the future of the economy and its normalization belong to the producers.

Widespread Tax Evasion Cuts Revenues by 10 Percent

PM2106151994 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Taxes: Game of Hide and Seek"]

[Text] There has been a tax collection shortfall of around 10 percent this year. The lower chamber of parliament was informed of this by Vladimir Gusev, leader of the State Taxation Service. The basic reason for this, according to him, is the nonpayments crisis and numerous cases of tax evasion.

Briefing deputies on progress in fulfilling the Russian President's Edict "On the Implementation of a Tax Amnesty in 1993," Vladimir Gusev noted that nonpayment of taxes has essentially become widespread. He cited the following figures: Since the presidential edict came into force 44,000 corporate bodies and 2,000 individuals guilty of ignoring tax legislation have been detected. As a result the exchequer has experienced a shortfall of 350 billion rubles.

Gerashchenko on Limiting Foreign Bank Access

MK2106110094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jun 94 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Central Bank of Russia Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko by Vladimir Katin, RIA correspondent at the EC, in Luxembourg "last week," specially for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA; carried under the "Finances" rubric: "Viktor Gerashchenko Favors Giving Foreign Banks Measured Access to Russia. The Central Bank as an Ultra-Patriot of the Russian Banking System"]

[Text] Luxembourg is home to more than 200 foreign banks from all over the world. Billion-dollar operations take place here every day, and the financial powers that be are frequent guests in this city. Viktor Gerashchenko, chief of the Central Bank of Russia, who was in Luxembourg last week, answered questions concerning the admission of foreign banks to the country's financial market.

[Katin] State protectionism of the banking sector in Russia is one of the obstacles that prevent our country from forging partnership relations with European business. This obstacle has also long held up the conclusion of an agreement on trade cooperation with the EC. But recently a shift has emerged in which foreign financial institutions seem to be given significant concessions that appear to be coming from you personally, the Central Bank. Is this really so and what do you think about that?

[Gerashchenko] Let us first, so to speak, take a glimpse at the overall picture of banking activity in Russia. In my view, the way the banking sector is currently developing is not bad, it is even doing well. I absolutely disagree with those who say that we already have more banks than we need. At present there are approximately 2,100 banks in the country. Plus 600 applications to open new ones. Given that in addition they have 4,500 branches strewn over the country, it will make over 6,000 banking units. Still, I cannot say that this is enough, that the banking system has covered all areas, has penetrated all capillaries of society and the economy. One reason for such an unsatisfactory—so far—status is the overconcentration of banks in one place—Moscow, which accounts for around 38-40 percent of all banks. This, however, is normal, this is a tradition for large cities in all countries, all the more so for capital cities.

So, the current banking system, despite its clear trend toward evolution, toward expansion, alas, still is not fully capable of servicing small and medium-size businesses. In addition, national banks sometimes try to call the shots. That is, they attach fairly tight or expensive conditions to their loans or when carrying out one transaction or another.

Now we are faced with the need to give foreign banks access to the Russian financial market. I would like to underline, however, that this access should be measured. The evolution of the entire modern banking system in the world, where each country sooner or later arrives at this particular decision, speaks in favor of opening national borders for foreign banks. There was a time where the Spaniards, the Australians, or the Dutch did not let in foreign banking capital, but in the end all of them have changed their approach.

[Katin] What is the reason for such a shift in some countries and such an interest in others?

[Gerashchenko] When a foreign banks appears in an unfamiliar country that may be even unknown to its traditional customers, it helps them, first, to invest their money in its economy in the best possible fashion. Second, the bank helps create an international climate in interbank cooperation. This has a direct bearing on Russia. If we are seriously and actively to take part in the international division of labor, to become an inalienable part of the world economy, and to enter the world market, we cannot do without cooperating with the banking system on an international scale. You cannot but agree that it would be simply ridiculous and naive to reason as follows: Yes, we will pass a law on foreign investment and agree to give it access to industrial production, trade, mediation services, but it will be not allowed in the banking sector, no way! All these things are organically intertwined, after all. Doubtless, we should not admit all the—excuse the phrase—riff-raff only to have problems with them afterward. This is precisely why we need measured access.

[Katin] Will you please expand on this principle: How should this formula be applied in practice?

[Gerashchenko] The situation is as follows. Under current Russian legislation, the admission of foreign banks falls under the jurisdiction of the Central Bank, which sets a measure or a quota for foreign banking capital on Russia's financial market. Recently, in accordance with our powers we made a decision that the capital of foreign banks that will receive licenses from us to operate in Russia may not exceed 12-15 percent of the overall capital of national banks put together. This is one side to the problem. Another principle of the measured access formula is our right to select those who will be best suited to operate on the Russian financial market. We will choose what they call the first- class names—the most respectable banks that can really help their customers invest their money in the development of the Russian economy. Let us imagine the following situation. Say, a foreign bank has had a mission in Russia for 10-15 years, and its exposure to Russia stands at $1 billion. This is our state foreign debt that we are for the time being unable to repay on time and so we are negotiating its rescheduling. So why shouldn't we allow such a bank to have its office here, in Moscow, to do its business, its wheeling and dealing, as the saying goes? In this case, the frozen portfolio of Russian assets will look entirely different to the bank's shareholders. A psychological factor will also be at work—there will be a rising tide of confidence.

[Katin] In your account the Central Bank of Russia's stance appears fairly clear and convincing. What do the chiefs of the numerous private banks that you referred to at the beginning of our conversation think about the prospective arrival of foreign banking capital in Russia?

[Gerashchenko] I will say this: When our commercial banks say that giving access to foreigners amounts to selling out, they are for the most part guided by parochial interests. They simply do not want healthy competition, that is it. No, we do not call for the Russian sector of commercial banks to be stifled with help from foreigners, just the opposite, we want to give the banking sector a boost! I want to take the opportunity to state through NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: We, the Central Bank of Russia, in this sense are even ultra-patriots of the development of a serious banking system in our country. Who is crying and protesting loudest against foreign banks? It is mostly the small Russian banks and those who are not involved in long-term economic development. In doing their business, they are ready to give loans at huge rates while giving no thought at all to what this loan will be spent on.

[Katin] I would like to hear your opinion on the astronomical interest rates offered by some of our banks to their customers, such as "We guarantee 1,000 percent on ruble and hard-currency deposits!" I hope you are aware of such advertisements, you read our press after all. What is it—swindling?

[Gerashchenko] Yes, I read our press, and sometimes I even watch television. I believe that these advertisements are made by organizations that are unscrupulous or not entirely comprehensible to me. I wonder from whom they could obtain licenses for their activity, without which it is prohibited to attract people's money for any operations. Only the Central Bank or the Finance Ministry is entitled to issue such licenses. Admittedly, we still have lots of twilight zones whose activity is not covered by law—that is the problem. In short, I would not rush to an institution that offers 1,000 percent on a deposit.

[Katin] How do you, from the standpoint of your post as the country's chief banker, assess the ruble's health?

[Gerashchenko] In my view, our ruble is a completely healthy currency. This can be proved, for instance, by the following fact: Many people no longer buy foreign currency to save their rubles from inflation, but place their money at Russian banks precisely on ruble deposits. Yes, the ruble exchange rate is declining, this is a normal phenomenon given the current inflation, but it is far from a tragedy. In addition, it is declining much more slowly than exporters, who are interested in this decline, would like it to.

Customs Committee Releases Currency Control Report

LD2206100794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 22 Jun 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The staff of the State Customs Committee released the first currency control figures relating to the return of proceeds from the export of Russian goods. In the last three months the total volume of currency retained by exporting organizations rather than handed over is $70 million. A total of 40 organizations are among the guilty ones. But according to observers, the volume of currency which has not been handed over in detected cases may seem paltry compared with the amounts of currency which simply disappear. One wonders whether the control mechanisms introduced are effective.

Population Declines by 1 Million

MK2106111094 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "What's the News" rubric: "Russian Population Down by One Million"]

[Text] The Russian president's Commission on the Affairs of Women, Family, and Demography has held a meeting. Commission Chairman Yekaterina Lyakhova delivered a report "On the Status of Families in the Russian Federation."

The report noted, in particular, that as of 1 January 1994 Russia had a population of 148.4 million people, that is, the Russian population has declined by nearly 1 million from 1992. Mortality has exceeded birth rate.

The author attributed this to the worsening of Russian families' social situation. For instance, the new system of child benefits introduced in January 1994 does not ensure even a level of benefits comparable with that of January 1991.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Yeltsin, Grachev Observe Missile Launch

LD2206094894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0937 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Mirny, Arkhangelsk Region, June 22 TASS—During command post exercises conducted under the supervision of the Russian defence minister with the participation of President Boris Yeltsin, supreme commander-in-chief of the Russian Armed Forces, missile regiments' crews launched a Topol (Poplar) missile on Wednesday from the Russian Strategic Missile Forces' state test site at Mirny to a target area on the Kamchatka peninsula.

The crews displyed high standards of training and skill and successfully accomplished the task that was set to them. The missile hit the target.

Yeltsin Visit to MVD Operational Division Detailed

PM2106105194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 3

[Report by Senior Lieutenant Sergey Kolesnikov and Senior Lieutenant Andrey Rodnov of Russian MVD Internal Troops Press Center: "ODON Simply an 'Excellent Division'"]

[Text] The Separate Operational Division [Otdelnaya diviziya operativnogo naznacheniya—ODON] of the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Internal Troops has celebrated its 70th anniversary. Russian President Boris Yeltsin participated in the festivities.

This was the second visit to the combined unit in the past year by the supreme commander in chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces. It is not hard to notice that at critical moments the country's leadership turns precisely to this division. This time, too, the president's itinerary had evidently not been chosen by chance. The country has been overwhelmed by crime whose scale is frightening people, but at all stages of its existence the elite combined unit of internal troops has been a stabilizing factor in Russian reality and a weighty guarantor of citizens' safety. According to Boris Yeltsin, crime in the country has reached a dangerous level and is reducing to naught the results of many transformations, and effective protection against the criminal onslaught is needed. The country's leadership sees just this as the main task of the combined unit and of the internal troops as a whole.

It should be pointed out that the division has already repeatedly justified its purpose not only in Moscow but also far outside it. Since 1988 the combined unit's servicemen have been involved in ensuring the state of emergency regime in various parts of the former Union and of the present Russia. Sumgait, Stepanakert, Kubatly, Fergana, Sukhumi—this is a far from complete list of the "hot spots" where the soldiers of law and order have had to operate. Today the North Caucasus, where territorial disputes between Ossetians and Ingush are persisting, has become the division's second stationing location. State awards have been conferred upon almost every second serviceman for courage displayed in the fulfillment of peacemaking tasks. Seven people have been awarded the title Hero of the Russian Federation.

The president was pleased with the professional training of ODON servicemen. But he pointed out that the question of enhancing the mobility of special subunits remains acute today. The crime growth rate has prompted the country's leadership to resolve the question of increasing the strength of internal troop operational units by 52,000 men.

Army General Viktor Yerin awarded the ODON the pennant of the Russian Federation minister of internal affairs. "An excellent division!"—this was how Boris Yeltsin voiced his attitude toward the combined unit.

Yeltsin Sets Up Commission on Senior Military Posts

LD2106162894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0859 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jun—On Monday Boris Yeltsin approved the statute of a commission for higher military posts, higher military ranks, and higher special ranks of the council for cadre policy under the Russian president.

The commission's task is to examine the representations by heads of federal bodies of executive authority of the Russian president on appointing servicemen to top military posts and on relieving them of these posts in the Defense Ministry, the Interior Ministry, bodies and troops of the federal agency of government communications and information, counterintelligence bodies, the main directorate for protection, the security service of the Russian president, the foreign intelligence service, and other formations.

Yeltsin Observes Nuclear Forces' Vigil Procedures

LD2206102194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1009 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow June 22 TASS—The press service of the Russian presudent circulated the following announcement in Wednesday:

"The president of the Russian Federation, the President of the United States amnd the prime minister of the United Kingdom are known to have agreed, with a view to enhancing confidence-building measures and reducing nuclear confrontation, that from May 30, this year, the strategic nuclear forces of the three states are no longer targeted on one another and keep operational vigil with zero flight settings.

"Today, on June 22, President Boris Yeltsin as the supreme commander-in-chief visited the command centre of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

"Defence Minister P.S. Grachev and Chief of the General Staff M.P. Kolesnikov demonstrated to Yeltsin the combat vigil arrangements and the procedure for the control of the country's nuclear forces in realisation of the agreement between Russia, the U.S. and Britain.

"The Russian Federation has fully met its commitments. Its strategic nuclear forces keep combat vigil in line with new political realities that have arisen since the end of the cold war."

Budget Amendment Concerns Nuclear Safety Committee

LD2106105494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] The press office of Gosatomnadzor [the State Committee for Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety] reports that Amendment 185, which envisages the allocation of 560 billion rubles for ensuring nuclear and radiation safety at atomic power stations, is missing from the final version of the federal budget for reasons that have not been established. Moreover, the Ministry of Atomic Energy pledged to return this money as soon as it was paid by consumers for electricity produced by atomic power stations. The amendment was backed by the State Duma's power-engineering and ecology committees and was included in the draft budget passed at a second reading. However, the amendment is not in the final version of the budget that is due to be approved on

22 June. Atomic energy industry workers are sounding the alarm, claiming that to shut down all atomic power stations would require significantly more funds to ensure minimum safety standards.

Cosmonauts Continue Mir Mission

LD2106115194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1121 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Mission Control Centre June 21 TASS—The Russian scientific research space complex "Mir" contirues its flight with the 15th main space expedition members on board.

On Tuesday the crew spent a major part of its working time on preventive measures of the space station's temperature control systems, the mission control centre informed ITAR-TASS today.

During the day the cosmonauts will prepare for their forthcoming experiments with the "Trek" apparatus, which is meant for research of streams of superheavy nuclei of space rays, and the "Kaf-1000" camera. There are also plans to conduct medical checkup of the cosmonauts.

According to telemtric data and crew reports, onboard systems of the orbital complex are functioning normally. The health of cosmonauts Viktor Afanasyev, Yuriy Usachev and Valeriy Polyakov is good.

Federal Assembly

Federation Council Appeal on Duma Budget Discussion

LD2106180294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1700 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow June 21 TASS—An appeal of the Russian Federation Council requested the State Duma today to take into account its opinion when discussing the draft 1994 budget in third reading.

The appeal aims to support the application of the Association of Defence Industry Trade Unions and the League for Assistance to the Defence Plants on the need to prevent the defence industry collapse, Chairman of the Federation Council Budget Committee Nikolay Gonchar said here today. This morning representatives of the defence industries picketed the Federation Council building, and the chairman of the Association of Defence Industry Trade Union's Executive Committee made a report on the branch crisis at the Federation Council meeting at the invitation of the council speaker.

The Federation Council offered the State Duma to revise the defence spending item of the budget at an amount of 55 trillion rubles. The lower parliament chamber is expected to discuss the draft budget on Wednesday.

The Federation Council will continue its meeting on June 22.

State Duma Fails To Adopt 1994 Federal Budget

LD2206100894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0915 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetskov]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jun—The law on the federal budget for 1994 was not adopted as a whole today by the State Duma. Before the vote on this issue, Mikhail Zadornov, the chairman of the Duma's Committee for the Budget, Taxation, Banks, and Finances, said that all the amendments that had been made to it during the second reading had been taken into account for the document's third reading. He noted that these amendments related, in particular, to increased spending on defense and fundamental science and also to a 15 percent cut in spending on the structure of state administration. The deputy stressed that the document had undergone a final expert legal and linguistic examination.

After this, Ivan Rybkin, the chairman of the lower house of the Federal Assembly, informed deputies that the third reading of this document did not stipulate a debate and he proposed that they vote on it as a whole. However, only 194 deputies voted for the 1994 budget, while a total of 225 votes was needed for a positive outcome.

Deputies then left for a break, just prior to the announcement of which Rybkin noted that deputies would resume the debate on the 1994 budget on their return to the hall.

Officials Address Duma Before 2d Vote

LD2206141094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The draft of the federal budget for 1994 failed to collect the necessary number of votes (225) for its confirmation during a repeated voting in the RF [Russian Federation] State Duma Wednesday. As many as 220 deputies voted for it, 46 - against, and 33 abstained from voting. A total of 299 deputies participated in the voting.

A new voting on the draft has been scheduled for 16:00 [1200 GMT], until that time all factions of the lower chamber will discuss this issue.

Addressing the deputies before the voting, chairman of the chamber's budget committee Mikhail Zadornov warned them that in the case that the budget is not adopted the government will be forced to present a draft decree on financing for the third and fourth quarters, as a result, the State Duma would be left without any opportunity to monitor the spending of state funds.

The arguments of Fist Deputy Finance Minister Vladimir Petrov, who declared that the government cannot receive a credit from the Central Bank of Russia without the adopted budget, apparently seemed unpersuasive to the members of the chamber. Without the loan the state will not be able to finance Russian regions this July or pay wages to state employees. Due to the delay in the adoption of the budget, he said, the government will have no opportunity to carry out the decree on increasing of the minimum wage which the State Duma is to consider this Wednesday.

As many as 194 people voted for the adoption of the budget during the first voting, 57 - against, and 44 abstained from voting.

Duma Again Fails To Adopt Budget

LD2206104694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1007 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jun—Returning after an interval to vote on the law on the federal budget for 1994 as a whole, the chamber's deputies again failed to adopted it. This time, however, 221 deputies voted for the 1994 budget, whereas this morning during the first vote on this issue, the budget was supported by 194 deputies. A total of 226 votes is needed for a positive decision to be taken.

After a keen debate, deputies passed a decision to return to a vote on the country's budget at 1600 hours after the situation has been discussed in factions.

Disagreement Centers on Defense Spending

LD2206124894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1235 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow June 22 TASS—The State Duma (lower chamber) of the Russian Parliament lacked five votes on Wednesday to approve the federal draft budget under the third reading, but will reconsider it in the evening.

With only 221 votes for it, the draft, which was amended after its second reading a few days ago, failed to overcome the 226-vote hurdle.

The major disagreement is the defence spendings. The Duma wants to keep them at the 40-trillion rouble level, while the upper chamber, the Federation Council, wants to increase the appropriations to 55 trillion.

Federation Council Discusses Abkhazia Peacekeeping

MK2206092594 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 22 Jun 94 p 1

[Viktor Mironov report under the "Parliamentary Chronicles" rubric: "Grachev Will Carry Out the Order"]

[Text] Federation Council deputies arriving for the seventh session [21 June] were greeted by pickets from the military-industrial complex demanding "Provide state orders for the defense industry," "Conversion, not convulsion for the military-industrial complex!"

This lent the discussions of items on the agenda a corresponding tone. "The state budget is the most important document we will be adopting," Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the upper chamber of parliament, stressed. He had a brief but pithy conversation with the pickets following which he proposed that the deputies hear a report on this matter from the Federation Council budget committee. In his words, their State Duma counterparts had adopted the draft budget on its first and second reading with unbelievable ease, without considering the 252 amendments formulated by the Federation Council deputies. "The Duma people are about to approve it on the third reading now, so we, too, have got to step on it," Shumeyko remarked.

The centerpiece yesterday was of course the president's edict on the possibility of employing the Russian Federation Armed Forces in a peacekeeping operation in the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict zone. A report on this problem was provided by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev behind closed doors, unfortunately.

However, the sending of Russian troops into the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict zone has been approved in principle. "In a matter of literally two or three days, when they report to me that the Abkhazia territory has been cleared of mines, we shall press ahead directly with the peacekeeping mission," Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev stated after this question had been discussed in the upper chamber of parliament. According to him, an efficient group has been created of five battalions up to 3,000 men strong and it is on full combat alert. A question was raised on financing this action other than from Defense Ministry appropriations. The Defense Ministry, in particular, asked for 10 to 11 billion rubles until the year's end but the positive decision was yesterday short of a few votes.

Grachev Explains Deployment

PM2206135194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Petr Karapetyan: "Federation Council Gives Go-ahead to Introduction of Peacekeeping Forces into Abkhazia"]

[Text] At a closed session on 21 June Federation Council deputies discussed President Boris Yeltsin's edict on the introduction of Russian peacekeeping forces into the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone.

Let me remind you that the previous session was just one vote short of the number needed to ratify the edict. But this time, after hearing a report from Army General Pavel Grachev, the Russian defense minister and the president's representative at the session, the deputies voted by a majority for the introduction of Russian peacekeeping forces (with seven votes against and seven abstentions).

Answering journalists' questions, Army Gen Pavel Grachev expressed satisfaction at the Federation Council's decision but stated that the troops will not go into the conflict zone "at breakneck speed." Around 3,000 men will be transferred to the deployment area only after the locality has been cleared of mines. According to Army Gen. Pavel Grachev's estimates, it will take three to five days to occupy the bridges and carry out engineering operations. The first to be moved up will be two battalions from the 145th Motorized Rifle Division (Batumi) and one parachute regiment from the 345th Airborne Troops (Gudauta). As soon as these three battalions "take control of the sector" a further two reinforced motorized rifle battalions will be flown in. Control centers have already been prepared, communications have been organized, and all the material and technical support is in place for the peacekeeping action for which, as Army Gen Pavel Grachev announced, "we have requested 10-11 billion rubles before the end of the year." One is bound to recall here that the federal budget has not been approved yet....

At the last moment the question of the federal budget was deleted from the Federal Council session agenda. When one of the deputies asked for the budget to be "heard" on 23 June anyway, Vladimir Shumeyko stated that this was impossible for purely formal reasons: The State Duma has not officially presented the draft law on the federal budget for the Federation Council's approval. In so saying he noted that, when the Duma adopted it on second reading, it did not take into account the Federation Council's 252 amendments to the budget and the budget was adopted by a "political consensus."

After declaring that the budget is an especially political document, Vladimir Shumeyko made the following comment: "There is a version to satisfy everyone." At the same time he implied that if the Duma delayed in handing on the draft budget law to the upper chamber of the Federal Assembly, the Federation Council would not have time to discuss it, "and then everyone will begin saying that the budget has not been adopted because of the Federation Council's arrogance. I must ask the Duma to speed up the adoption of a decision. At the very least it must be ready to adopt a good law for the government, where spending will be decided."

Nevertheless, on the evening of 21 June and not without pressure from the pickets (around 100 placard-wielding representatives of defense sector enterprises had gathered by the entrance to the building),the Federation Council deputies did discuss the problems of the military-industrial complex and the draft federal budget and did adopt a request to the State Duma to submit the draft in good time.

Duma Urges Yeltsin To Suspend Anticrime Decree

LD2206135794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The State Duma's draft resolution, approved on Wednesday urges the Russian president to suspend the decree on urgent measures to protect the population from banditry and organized crime.

The resolution was supported by 246 deputies and opposed by 6, with 9 abstentions.

It is expected to be adopted in the evening.

The draft resolution says that the decree seriously limits the constitutional rights and liberties of Russian citizens without due reasons, and is at variance with the Constitution and a number of articles of the Criminal Code.

It also says that the Constitution and the federal laws have supreme status in the entire territory of the Russian Federation and that the Supreme Court must be guided by the Constitution and the current laws in handling specific cases.

The vote followed a report by head of the security committee Viktor Ilyukhin of the Communist faction who said the presidential decree was in breach of as many as eight articles in the federal Constitution. He said the measure derailed criminal legislation and suspended the existing Criminal Code.

For his part, head of the administration's human rights commission Sergey Kovalyev said that "we have once again run into a situation where government departments write laws for themselves." He spoke of having evidence that the decree was initialled by heads of the Interior Ministry and Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK).

First Deputy Interior Minister Mikhail Yegorov admitted to being one of the decree's authors and pledged to be personally responsible for carrying it out. He called for approving the paper and gave reassurances that any police action would be monitored by prosecuting bodies.

Presidential representative in the Federal Assembly Aleksandr Yakovlev also called to approve the decree. He said President Yeltsin was seeking to do his best to crack down on gangsters and ensure guarantees against police tyranny.

The president plans to send a bill on amendments to the Criminal Code next week, Yakovlev said. He said the decree would not be workable unless the law enforcement agencies came up with rules on how to implement it, and offered deputies to join a working group on this matter.

Duma Rejects Communist Attack on NATO Partnership

LD2206081594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0808 GMT 22 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow June 22 TASS—The Russian State Duma rejected on Wednesday a communist proposal to "declare null and void" the upcoming Russia's joining the NATO "Partnership for Peace" plan which is to be signed by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Brussels today.

Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov said in the lower house that the NATO partnership plan is "US expansionism aimed against Russia".

He compared it to the notorious "Barbarossa" plan of Adolf Hitler which was used to invade the former Soviet Union exactly 53 years ago - on June 22, 1941 when Nazi Germany attacked the USSR.

However, the Duma voted down the communist proposal to include the issue into the agenda.

Duma Members React to Proposed Extension of Term

LD2106204494 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] If the term of the powers of deputies to the Federal Assembly and the president are extended for two more years, the period of stability in Russia could continue for another three years. This is what Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko thinks. In his words, Boris Yeltsin does not object to this step and also thinks it necessary to extend the period of stable work.

But we remind you that in an interview to Radio Ekho Moskvy, Boris Yeltsin's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov said that Vladimir Shumeyko's initiative had only been heard of in the apparatus of the head of state today from a dispatch received there.

Today the initiative of the Speaker of the Federation Council was also supported by State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin. In his opinion the idea could be implemented on three conditions, namely: If elements of stabilization emerge in the country in the next few months; if the country's legislative network is formed in the right way; and finally, if both the chambers of the Federal Assembly prove their competence.

However, major factions of the State Duma were extremely skeptical regarding the initiative of the chairman of the upper chamber on extending the powers. Our correspondent reports on this:

[Correspondent Ivan Tresilov] Although the factions and groups have not worked out united positions, individual representatives among them have already expressed their opinion on this.

Aleksandr Savtsov, of Russia's Choice, expressed himself more accurately: I see nothing here but an attempt to buy deputies.

Communist Viktor Zorkin called the proposals unethical and Yabloko member Viktor Sheynis called the move amoral.

Boris Fedorov, leader of the 12 December Union, also called for holding elections at the normal time.

Only leader of the Liberal Democrats [LDPR] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy immediately entered the fray and started vigorous bargaining. In his words, the LDPR will support the extension of powers if a new government is formed on the basis of his party.

Ivan Tresilov, Ekho Moskvy, State Duma.

Rybkin Favors Extending Term of Deputies

LD2106174494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Speaker of the State Duma (the lower house of Russian parliament) Ivan Rybkin has expressed support to his counterpart from the upper house Vladimir Shumeyko's proposal to extend the term in office of deputies and the president.

In an interview with Interfax, he said the idea was first put forward by member of the State Duma Mikhail Poltoranin two months ago.

However, Rybkin thinks three main conditions must be met before the proposal is implemented: the economy must show signs of stabilization in the next two or three months; the country's legislative network be arranged in a proper way; and the two houses prove workable.

Rybkin said he would be happy to see the terms of office for the parliament and head of state extended after those conditions had been met.

Agrarian Lobby Complains Reform Bills 'Blocked'

PM2106150794 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Pavel Yemelin: "What Is the Way Out? Agrarians' Conference in State Duma"]

[Text] The State Duma has been working for six months now but there are still no laws whatever regulating relations in the economy's agrarian sector. Why is this? What are the reasons for such a long period of disorder?

It emerges that the answer is fairly simple. An extremely irregular situation has arisen with regard to the passage of draft laws on agrarian reform. The list of priority legislative acts in this area was decided long ago, and work on them has been and continues to be carried out. However, the government has not officially submitted a single draft law to the State Duma. And the drafts which the Duma committee on agrarian questions has elaborated do not receive support from the...government. This is a vicious circle!

In order to get a clear and unequivocal picture of the sides' positions, last Friday (17 June) members of the Duma's agrarian faction and leaders of the agrarian sector met—Vice Premier A. Zaveryukha, V. Khlystun, minister of agriculture and food, N. Komov, chairman of the Russian Federation Committee for Land Resources and Land Management, S. Ignatyev, deputy minister of economics, A. Krasnopivtsev, deputy minister of finance, and other executives from government structures.

The deputies were unanimous that the draft agrarian laws are clearly being blocked by the government team. All references to difficulties in coordination were deemed to be unfounded. Our draft laws, M. Lapshin emphasized, are being blocked not for technical but for ideological reasons.

What remains in Russia that has not been privatized? Only the land, it seems. For this very reason radical reformers are stubbornly seeking to adopt first of all a Civil Code incorporating paragraphs which make land a commodity, and only then to enshrine these provisions in a Land Code.

In the opinion of Deputy V. Vershinin, the agrarian sector's leaders are today powerless to change the situation somehow. It is necessary to appeal to the president and the public. It has actually been decided to make such an appeal. These most important questions for the fate of rural areas will be broached in the course of the forthcoming meeting between agrarian deputies and the Russian president 27 June.

Duma Focuses on Infighting, Not Lawmaking

PM2106154594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 2

[Article by Sergey Chugayev: "Duma in Time Trouble"]

[Text] The course of the 17 June plenary session of the State Duma and its results seriously shook hopes that this chamber of the Federal Assembly would prove to be more capable of legislative activity than its predecessor, the Supreme Soviet. As is well known, in the course of this session day packed with stormy debates and scandals not one legislative act received any reading. It would appear that the Duma expended all its creative potential on the adoption of the budget and has subsequently proved ready only for political, largely internecine, battle.

Such an evolution of the country's supreme legislative organ looks particularly striking against the background of the gathering pace of the president's activity; in the course of the past week he not only completed a lightning tour of important Russian regions, but also continued the preparation and publication of a series of edicts, among which the edict on stepping up the battle against gangsterism has attracted the most attention.

The Duma has not been able to deliver an intelligible response to a single one of these presidential initiatives. The compromise proposed by a number of Duma leaders—to postpone the entry into force of the edict on combating crime until the appearance of an analogous law, which the Duma promised to adopt in two weeks—looks unrealistic. First, the Duma has had almost six months to adopt such a law. However, instead of doing so, legislators used the lion's share of the time to prepare and adopt the law on the deputies' status and the decree on the creation of parliamentary radio and television broadcasting. The law on the budget, adopted at the second reading, in this sense looks like the exception without which, as we know, there is no rule. Second, July is the last month of the session's work. Thus deputies of the chamber have only 10 plenary sittings ahead. The timetable of legislative work has long since been disrupted, probably irreversibly. In addition, the disposition of political forces in the Duma gives no grounds for hope that a law devoted to combating organized crime can be adopted quickly enough, even if preparation of all other legislative acts is put to one side for this purpose. And, of course, factional boycotts and deputies' strikes—which we have also witnessed over the past week—cannot be ruled out.

At the same time deficiencies in legislative activity were more than compensated for by an upsurge in aggressiveness. A number of episodes at the 17 June session put one in mind of the scenes played out at the Congresses of People's Deputies. It is insufficient to attribute this to the speaker's absence from the session, although I. Rybkin does indeed demonstrate masterly control of the Duma. But it is impossible not to focus attention on the fact that the main sources of tension in the Duma last week were by no means the representatives of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction, but the leaders of the nonregistered deputies' groups "12 December" and "Russia's Path."

It is improbable that the roots of this activity lie exclusively in an innate sense of justice causing deputies to contend with the Duma Council, which, in their opinion, has both usurped power in the chamber and has turned into a counterpart of the old Supreme Soviet Presidium. On the contrary, it is more likely that it is a question of attempts to penetrate this leading parliamentary organ themselves by any means, including some which closely resemble blackmail. Moreover, it is hardly exclusively in order to obtain the additional benefits which registered factions and groups enjoy. Their main aim here seems to be their inclusion, as quickly as possible, in the existing system of the political establishment, and, as a consequence, their inclusion on equal terms in the political process, which is hard to describe as anything other than preparation for elections.

Everything which happened in the Duma last week creates a fairly firm impression that deputies assessed the president's press conference and his legislative activity as the beginning of the election campaign. What is more, they found themselves at the same time grouped with the laggards who have lost the initiative and effectively find themselves in time trouble. After all, less and less time remains until the elections, and there are so far, alas, not many grounds to be proud of their achievements.

The president's expedited legislative activity, which is taking place against the background of the Duma's poor effectiveness, the ambiguous situation over the General Prosecutor's Office, and the absence of the Constitutional Court, although it will most likely increase B. Yeltsin's popularity with the voters, could also have quite unexpected consequences. The upsetting of the balance between the the legislature and the executive in the favor of the latter can already be seen extremely clearly today. It is not hard to suppose that irate charges of usurping power will be leveled against the president in fairly short order by the State Duma. However, at the same time it would not be superfluous to remind the initiators of such charges that they themselves in their time have ignored many instruments of power under their full control. Such as, for example, the constitutional laws on the Constitutional Court, on the president, and on the elections. At least, nothing is heard today of the preparation of these legislative acts.

Regional Affairs

Governors Seek Talks With Yeltsin on Economic Crisis

LD2106164494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1522 GMT 21 Jun 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Rumyantsev]

[Text] St. Petersburg June 21 TASS—Russian governors will "insist on a soonest meeting with President Boris Yeltsin" to tell him about their opinion of ways out of the economic crisis, Leningrad Regional Governor Aleksandr Belyakov told ITAR-TASS today upon the completion of a governors' meeting in Novgorod.

"The president meets anyone but us, and we know the Russian life from inside," said Belyakov. In his words, the governors have elaborated 23 measures which, they believe, will help to overcome the economic crisis and they want to tell the president about that immediately.

The governors give a priority to the 10,000,000,000,000 ruble emission to make the ruble/dollar correlation real and settle the non-payment problem a reason for which is the enterprises' lack of proceeds they have earned.

Anti-crisis proposals also include the introduction of a modern bill mechanism, state insurance of loans to the population, state control over the increased cost of energy carriers and cargo transportation, subordination of all federal structures in regions to the municipal authorities and the introduction of the governor status in Russia.

Chechen Leader's Aide Questions Russia's Legitimacy

LD2106165094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Groznyy may demand the restoration of the USSR if Moscow keeps saying the Chechen republic is part of Russia, a member of President Dzhokhar Dudayev's staff told Interfax. According to the same source the former Soviet leaders would be invited to Groznyy for consultations on the issue.

A senior presidential spokesman said the Chechen leaders recognized the legitimacy and legal acts of only the Soviet Union. "As for the legitimacy of the Belovezh agreements that caused the USSR to fall apart, the Chechen leaders have big doubts about them", the source told Interfax. "The Chechen people have the full right to this, because when for the first time in their history they took part in the referendum on preserving the USSR, they voted "yes"."

"If Russia, which does not have a legal reason for statements that Chechnya is a member of the Russian Federation, keeps saying so, Groznyy will reserve the right to call in question the legitimacy of the Russian Federation and its leaders", the senior source at the Chechen presidential staff said.

Dudayev Said To Want Private Meeting With Yeltsin

MK2206065594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 22 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov under the "Initiative" rubric: "Dudayev Ready To Meet With Yeltsin in Person. People's Diplomacy As Means of Solving Interethnic Conflicts"]

[Text] Shmidt Dzoblayev, general secretary of the Assembly of North Caucasus Democratic Forces, told journalists yesterday about his experience of shuttle diplomacy in establishing contacts between Chechen Republic President Dzhokhar Dudayev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. According to Mr. Dzoblayev, he was visited Chechnya 13-15 June to hold talks with the republic's top officials, including President Dzhokhar Dudayev. Shmidt Dzoblayev said that Dzhokhar Dudayev is ready for personal talks with Boris Yeltsin, but he insisted that the meeting be held without mediators, meaning the State Committee for Nationalities Policy, which was earlier headed and is currently supervised by Sergey Shakhray, "the enemy of the Chechen people," and also the President's Administration for Work With Territories, where Doka Zavgayev, former first secretary of the Chechen-Ingush Communist Party organization, currently holds a job. The Chechen president's proposals were passed by Mr. Dzoblayev to Boris Yeltsin through Sergey Filatov and Georgiy Satarov. According to Mr. Dzoblayev, the Chechen president counts on Boris Yeltsin's goodwill despite "the unwillingness of certain forces in Russia to reach accord." Mr. Dzoblayev assured journalists that Chechnya wants to have treaty-based relations with the Russian Federation.

Unfortunately, the leader of the North Caucasus democratic forces could not shed light on how precisely the Chechen Republic is going to straighten out its relations with Russia—whether this will be an agreement between two independent states or whether it will be modeled on the treaty between the Russian Federation and Tatarstan. However, Mr. Dzoblayev said, the Chechnya leaders plan to request guarantees that the republic's citizens be granted immunity from political reprisals by the Russian authorities; in addition, Chechnya fully supports the idea of creating "a CIS defense shield." He noted in particular that according to high-ranking Chechen officials, Dzhokhar Dudayev "sees himself as a Russian officer and is proud of it."

As for the geopolitical situation in the region, Mr. Dzoblayev pointed out that many people are concerned by attempts to squeeze Russia out of the Caucasus, something in which Britain is taking a particularly active part, Chechen Republic leaders think. In addition, Shmidt Dzoblayev expressed his regret that the leaders of the North Caucasus republics meet with each other only with Moscow's mediation.

Apparently in order to prop up "state diplomacy" Shmidt Dzoblayev and his colleagues are planning to set up 25 June an Assembly of National-Democratic and Patriotic Forces of Russia, which will include various public and political organizations from the republics within the Russian Federation, the Russian Movement for Democratic Reform, and also the Assembly of North Caucasus Democratic Forces. In Mr. Dzoblayev's words, the new organization's activity may become a new level of people's diplomacy aimed at settling interethnic disputes.

Oil-Rich Autonomous Okrugs To Pool Resources

PM2206102194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jun 94 First Edition p 2

[Nikolay Dudnikov report: "Time To Join Forces"]

[Text] An agreement was signed a few days ago on long-term cooperation between two components of the Russian Federation—Khanty-Mansiysk and Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrugs. They guarantee "to offer each other a shoulder to lean on" both in the economic sphere and in the utilization of financial, material, natural, personnel, and other resources. The two okrugs intend to unite their scientific-technical and information potential in conditions of the emergence of a market economy.

Given that the okrugs of Yamalo-Nenets and Khanty-Mansiysk are main suppliers of oil and gas in Russia, the agreement will allow them to bring the question to the government's attention on a more fundamental basis in the interests of the territories.

Union of Pro-Communist Forces Registered in Urals

MK2106100594 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 3

[Valeriya Ochinyan report: "Urals Opposition Association. Union of Workers and Peasants Intends To Restore Soviets"]

[Text] A Union of Workers, Peasants, and Working Intelligentsia has been created in Yekaterinburg, the Russian president's home town. The existence of such an organization in the Urals, where all processes connected with economic change proceed more painfully than anywhere else, could have a serious influence on the political situation in the region. Yesterday's sitting of the Coordination Council of this organization was attended by a visitor from Moscow—Oleg Shenin, chairman of the UCP [Union of Communist Parties]-CPSU.

The Union has been joined by the local branches of the Russian Communist Workers Party, the "Worker" association, the "Russian Union" national-patriotic association, the Agro-Industrial Complex trade union, and the teachers strike committee. The communists hope they will soon be joined by local members of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia. While the Union was created way back in early 1993, the question of its official registration appeared to its leaders "untimely" until recently. However, the opposition's success in the December elections and the activization of the opposition forces in Moscow urged the Urals' leftists to emerge from "hiding." The arrival of Oleg Shenin seems also to be intended to underline the importance of the coming registration of the Union and its reliable connections with Moscow comrades.

Despite the fact that the Union is a rather mixed bag, its members, the organizers are convinced, have common goals and only "insignificant differences" on tactics. Their immediate demands to the Federal Assembly and the government seem rather traditional: modify the tax system, provide state protection for commodity producers and a broader state protection system for the working people, ensure timely payment of wages. The Union conscientiously stresses economic demands—they are more readily understood by the ordinary voter. The organization's only political task is to restore the soviets as "government of the people." At the same time, the organizers state, their Union is no opponent of reforms "with the exception of those that infringe on the interests of the working people."

Entrepreneurs and bankers in the Urals have virtually ignored the consolidation of the communist and socialist forces. Maybe this is explained by the local elite's rather firm confidence in their power and their ability to prevent activization of the leftists. At the same time, it is possible, by expertly directing their consolidated forces, to bring pressure to bear on the federal authorities and the rich Moscow commercial structures which are increasingly infiltrating the industrial Urals.

N. Fleet Nuclear Waste Facilities Full

PM2206083594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Jun 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report from Severodvinsk by Valeriy Anuchin]

[Text] To date around 100 nuclear submarines have been withdrawn from service in the Russian Navy. More than 10 very outdated submarines have accumulated at a division for dismantling submarines at the White Sea Naval Base in the roadstead of Severodvinsk port. Some of them have been there for more than 15 years, waiting to be dismantled. Yet not even the fuel from their nuclear reactors has been unloaded yet. There is simply nowhere to put it. Nuclear waste storage facilities in Murmansk and Severodvinsk are full to capacity. Because of the Northern Fleet's lack of money, the dismantling of the reactors and subsequent storage of the nuclear waste have been postponed for many years. Meanwhile considerable sums of money are having to be spent to keep these submarines afloat.

[V.P. Shempelev, White Sea Naval Base chief of radiological, chemical, and biological defense] These submarines have been in service for a great many years and there is therefore a potential danger that the radiation situation will deteriorate. So painstaking ecological monitoring of the radiation situation in the area where these submarines are located is essential.

[Anuchin] But how are the White Sea Naval Base specialists of to carry out such monitoring when the Akademik Vavilov—the only vessel in the North equipped for monitoring radiation and ecological safety—is being withdrawn by its owner, the "Krasnoye Sormovo" shipyard in Nizhniy Novgorod, despite the fact that the Northern Fleet is prepared to sign a long-term lease?

Far East Military Commander on Cossack Troops

PM2106103794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Jun 94 p 4

[Interview with Colonel General V.S. Chechevatov, commander of the Far East Military District, by Valeriy Usoltsev under "Military Commander Takes the Floor" rubric; place and date not given: "They Will Not Be 'Toy Soldiers'"]

[Text] Col. Gen. Viktor Stepanovich Chechevatov, commander of the Far East Military District, is a man of indisputable authority for the region's Cossacks. They consider him "one of their own." And it is perhaps now understandable why the Cossack hetmans of Russia's remote regions elected him unanimously as their appointed hetman.

[Usoltsev] Viktor Stepanovich, many politicians of the most diverse caliber and rank are today wooing the Cossacks and seeking to win their favor, that is to say, to attain the sort of position in which you now find yourself, enjoying their love, esteem, and respect.... What do you think is moving these politicians toward the Cossacks?

[Chechevatov] Well, you have come up with a whole "bunch" of questions. So, am I to analyze, on the basis of my own experience, the goals of people who, I suppose, are using the Cossacks simply to attain their own interests, for their own political advantage? My experience is not suitable. I am with the Cossacks with all my soul, with all my heart. They are such radiant people, just what our Fatherland needs today! They are a force. That is why these people are trying to get attached to them. They represent the special spiritual world order of our excellent national "mix." And to "toy" with the Cossacks today, to "woo" them, is to destroy—to deliberately destroy, I believe—the green shoots of our national recovery. These people want to use them—but for destructive purposes. But the Cossacks.... They are an open people, they frequently trust those who by no means take them where they need to go, where our Russia itself needs to go....

So much "dirt," so much "trash" has swamped the Cossacks today; there are so many "masqueraders" in their midst. "Masqueraders" not only on the outside but on the inside too, people whose very thoughts are pernicious....

But there is virtually no opposition to all these deceitful, false, alien elements among the Cossacks, it seems to me. I often say this to the Cossacks at meetings. After all, this compromises the entire movement and provokes distrust in it on the part of outsiders. At best, that is—if such an expression is appropriate. At worst, it provokes caustic mockery and downright insults.

But I believe that, nevertheless, the Cossacks will not let anyone else get their grubby hands on their banners, their martial glory.

The other day I returned from an official trip along the Amur and the Ussuri. I visited the Cossack villages. Traditions are alive and well. And traditions are like the roots of a tree. If there are roots, they will "pump in" the strength of the earth, and therefore, everything else will be there too.

Hereditary Cossacks have appeared here once again. Kalmykovs, Nazarovs, Poluyanovs, Byankins. They know how to teach good sense to the Cossack "young," how to kindle love for the Motherland in their hearts, how to develop in them a sense of Duty, Honor, and military self-sacrifice in the name of the land in which they were born.

And the Cossack villages themselves? It is like finding yourself in another world. Take Mogilevka, for example. The Cossacks, able in mind and body, live and create there. Their homes are beautiful to look at; there is always a good harvest; there is no despondency, and people believe in tomorrow. Therefore they actually prepare this tomorrow themselves, without relying on anyone else to do it for them. You know, after a meeting with such a people you feel a real spiritual uplift, the world seems a brighter place.

Anyway, it seems that the district commander has started to gush. And this is contraindicated for us military people, as one of Aleksandr Kuprin's heroes remarked. Well? Time to talk about Cossack soldiers?

[Usoltsev] You mean the creation of Cossack subunits in the district?

[Chechevatov] There you have just used the term "subunit." Some Cossacks and hetmans are offended if we use this word, and not "combined formation," say, or "unit," at a pinch. They say that it is humiliating. We, they say, are ready today to put forward corps and armies. You are not ready, I reply. Why start to compromise a good thing? And again, what kind of new game of "gigantomania" is this? Your first steps do not have to be painful strides; just stretching your foot forward will do. And who needs cripples? Not all of them understand jokes, they take offense.... As a rule, it is not those who think about the task in hand itself who think in terms of "corps," but those who think about themselves in that task. About being on show, being a prominent figure. In general, of course, many people have appeared today who wish to take command of "corps," to shine in generals' shoulder boards; for some Cossacks, as I notice, have a pretty simple attitude toward ranks: If it's what you like, it's yours by right, so help yourself.

However, all this has been said before.

My opinion is that the time has come to begin serious work on a program of military training for young Cossacks "at local level," in their native villages. After all, what happened in the past? The Cossack came into the services already with a sufficient degree of professional training.

We have already started to do one or two things in this area. In a number of Cossack villages classes in military science are being given under the leadership of hetmans, with the aid of retired officers and sergeants. The district command is making available its own training grounds and firing ranges and allocating weapons and ammunition for these purposes. Many serving officers are also involved with young Cossacks and are training replenishments for themselves. As a rule this takes place on nonworking days, in off-duty periods—in their personal time, as we say. This is truly selfless devotion. It turns out that, despite everything, real officers have not died out in our country.

Today Cossacks living along the border already know where they have to go in the event of a deterioration of the situation or the emergence of a threat to Russia, where to get their arms, and at what gun emplacement to perform their combat task.

We have started to use Cossacks to guard military stores and other Army facilities. By the way, the security and defense of Bolshoy Ussuriyskiy Ostrov has already been entrusted to Cossacks. A Cossack company has been formed there, and young Cossacks are serving creditably.

As district commander I would like to mention the best men by name. They are all "hereditary villagers": Privates Aleksandr Chernyshov, Konstantin Mamontov, Vladimir Ivanov, Sergey Petaltsev.

The district command sees the Cossacks as a real military force, as their reliable reserve. And of course, we will not leave them to confront problems alone.

[Usoltsev] Cossacks complain of the lack of uniforms and equipment. All this costs a lot of money these days. And where are horses to be had? Can the district help here?

[Chechevatov] We will help the Cossacks with uniforms and equipment. Rest assured that we are taking this question off the agenda.

As for horses, the reviving villages have begun to raise them themselves. In the aforementioned Mogilevka. Back when he was a sovkhoz director the current hetman, Vladimir Torkhov, founded a stud farm on his own land and built a hippodrome, attracting dozens of young men and women to equestrian sports. It was from here that for the first time in the region, and perhaps in the old Soviet Union as a whole, young men began to come to serve in the Border Troops with their own horses. Yes, all problems are being resolved. If, of course, there is a desire to resolve them. If there are people who dream of making Russia great, of training for it a new generation of true sons and reliable defenders of their native borders.

These will not be "toy soldiers." These troops will be the pride of our Armed Forces.

This is my belief.

International Affairs

Premier Receives Belarusian Ambassador, Views Cooperation

WS2206093694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol today received Belarusian Ambassador to Ukraine Vitaliy Kurasyk. The two men discussed a wide range of issues concerning the (?development of traditionally good) relations between the two states. They emphasized that it is particularly important to broaden economic cooperation, in order to increase production of various goods to fill the Ukrainian and Belarusian markets. They voiced the mutual desire to deepen ties in science, culture, and other sectors.

Kravchuk Proposes Joint Oil-Processing Venture to Yeltsin

LD2106172394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has addressed Russian President Boris Yeltsin, proposing to set up a Russian-Ukrainian oil company as a transnational corporation. The proposal was made after Kravchuk's visit to Lugansk's Lisichansk Petroleum Organic Synthesis joint stock company. He believes that setting up a transnational corporation would be another step along the path of strengthening friendship and developing cooperation between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

The president of Ukraine familiarized himself with the state of affairs at the joint stock company. At a meeting with the enterprise's leadership, work force, and specialists, the prospects for the development of the oil processing sector and ways of curbing its economic crisis were discussed.

On the same day, Kravchuk met representatives of labor collectives, local authorities, parties, and movements from the towns of Lisichansk, Rubezhnoye, Pervomaysk, as well as (?Kalininskiy) and some other rayons of Lugansk Oblast. He described the economic situation in Ukraine, spoke about his vision for resolving current problems, and answered numerous questions from the electorate.

Participants in the meeting expressed themselves in support of the president's course and praised his plans of further nation building.

Foreign Ministry Notes Lack of Free Trade With Russia

LD2106173494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] About a year ago, a free trade agreement was signed between Ukraine and Russia. However, in reality there is no free trade. This was stated by Deputy Foreign Minister Oleksandr Makarenko at a Ukrainian Foreign Ministry briefing. He explained that there were 48 exceptions to the list of Russian goods imported by Ukraine. These goods, such as energy sources and timber, are vital to us.

The deputy minister believes that setting up a CIS economic union, and Ukraine being an associate member of this union, should end those discriminatory restrictions.

EC Radiation Monitoring Project Approved

LD2106165294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1930 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev—UNIAN learned today that Ukraine's Ministry of the Environment has agreed technical requirements for a system of radiation monitoring in Ukraine. The requirements were worked out by the British company PA Consulting Group, in accordance with the EEC program of technical assistance to the CIS (TACIS). They were agreed following expert appraisal by Ukrainian departments involved in radiation monitoring and accident control.

Kostyantyn Rudya, deputy head of the directorate for nuclear and radioactive safety of Ukraine's Ministry of Environment [name and title as received], told UNIAN that the agreement makes it possible to launch the first part of the Gamma-1 monitoring system for nuclear power plants, which constitutes the first part of a radiation unit in Ukraine's environmental monitoring system which is being developed in coordination with the Ministry of Environment. According to Kostyantyn Rudya, the EEC wishes to receive immediate reports on radioactive accidents at Ukrainian AES [nuclear electric power station] which could have transboundary effects.

Ukraine's Ministry of Environment, taking national interests into account, has attached additional conditions to the technical requirements submitted to the EEC mission in Ukraine. These include the widest possible use of Ukrainian equipment, services, and organizations by the Gamma-1 contractor. Ukraine's Ministry of Environment has also expressed an interest in Ukraine's participation in approving criteria for the choice of contractor in a competition to be held by the EEC.

Naval Commander Views Sevastopol, Black Sea Fleet Proposals

LD2106172794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Sevastopol must become Ukraine's naval stronghold, while the Russian Navy can be deployed there as a navy of a foreign power, Ukrainian Navy Commander Vladimir Beskorovainy said.

Speaking in Sevastopol on Tuesday, he said Russia could be allowed to deploy its navy there for a period of 15 to 25 years after an appropriate leasing agreement was signed.

The commander hopes that the problem of sharing the Black Sea Fleet (BSF) will have been sorted out by the end of next year as envisaged by the Yalta agreement.

On Speaker of Parliament Alexander Moroz's call for joint BSF command to be maintained, Beskorovainy described the task as technically feasible. However, he stressed that the question was purely political amounting to the creation of a military alliance in fact.

Russia and Ukraine ended the final round of talks in Kiev on 9 June by compiling a list of warships to be shared with each other. However, the question of deployment and sharing the existing infrastructures remains unresolved.

Beskorovainy also said that a Ukrainian patrol ship would be sent to France to take part in a final parade at Rouan early next month dedicated to fifty years since the allied nations' operation in Normandy.

Deputy Foreign Minister Views Cooperation With EU

LD2106173294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Oleksandr Makarenko, deputy minister of foreign affairs, spoke at a briefing at Ukraine's Foreign Ministry today on the results of President Leonid Kravchuk's visit to Luxembourg and the signing of an agreement on partnership and cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union [EU]. The deputy minister described the agreement as the beginning of Ukraine's integration in the united Europe. He said, in particular, that for Ukraine the most important part of the document is the political part, which confirms the EU's interest in Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. Regarding purely economic issues, Oleksandr Makarenko said, the agreement envisages the withdrawal of any restrictions on trade between Ukraine and EU member states. He said, however, that although Europe, by this agreement, has opened its doors, the speed of our integration will depend on the speed of our reforms.

Welcomes Agreements

LD2206083894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] It has been a year since Ukraine and Russian signed an agreement on free trade, but in reality there is no free trade. This was stated at a briefing at the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs by Deputy Foreign Minister Oleksandr Makarenko. He explained that the reason for this was that Russia had 48 exemptions from a list of goods that Ukraine imported. These were goods that were of vital importance to Ukraine such as energy sources and timber. In the view of the deputy minister, the creation of the CIS economic community and Ukraine's associate membership of this union should remove these discriminatory restrictions.

Oleksandr Makarenko acquainted journalists with the results of President Leonid Kravchuk's visit to Luxembourg and the signing of an agreement on partnership and cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union. The deputy minister assessed the signing of this agreement as the beginning of Ukraine's entry into a united Europe. He in particular stressed that the political part of this document which acknowledges the European Union's interest in seeing Ukraine as a sovereign, independent and territorially integrated state, was of great importance to Ukraine.

Regarding essential economic issues, Oleksandr Makarenko said the agreement envisaged the removal of any restrictions on trade between Ukraine and European Union member states. At the same time he noted that although Europe had opened the door with this agreement, the speed with which Ukraine would join it depended on the speed of reforms in Ukraine.

Government Approves Sale of Cartridges in West

LD2106180694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1546 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[Text] Lvov 21 June TASS—According to the UNIAN independent Ukrainian news agency, the Lugansk-based machine-building works set going production of cartridges for submachine guns and pistols, including those of calibre 7.62, which are in great demand by foreign customers.

For example, a Cambodian entrepreneur has ordered 10 million cartridges of this calibre; the Dutch have ordered even more—50 million cartridges.

To retool the Lugansk-based plant as soon as possible, the "Ukrinmash" foreign trade company, which has a licence for selling this kind of production, proposed that 10-20 million cartridges (the so-called untouchable reserve) be taken from the depots of Ukrainian Defence Ministry and sold in the West. The Ukrainian Government has already given a go-ahead for the move.

National Affairs

Further on Kravchuk Ruling on Crimean Decrees

LD2106160994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] President Kravchuk has ruled that the Crimean President's decrees "On the property of the Republic of Crimea" and "On the privatization of Crimea's state-run enterprises" contravene Ukraine's legislation.

He dismissed as illegal the declaration of Crimea's control over the property of state-run transportation depots, information and communication facilities, higher educational establishments and other institutions in Crimea.

The decree maintains that in line with Ukrainian law, this is part of the property that belongs to all in society.

Besides, part of what is to be privatized in accordance with the Crimean President Meshkov's decree relates to the national property of Ukraine, the decree stresses.

Crimea Leader Stresses Integration of Sevastopol

LD2106220694 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2100 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Sevastopol, 21 Jun—Serhiy Tsekov, Supreme Council of Crimea chairman, has visited Sevastopol. He met there Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin, Sevastopol City Council Chairman Viktor Semenov, and some Republican Movement of Crimea activists who are running in the election to the city council of the next convocation.

Meeting representatives of the mass media, Serhiy Tsekov stated that "the Supreme Council of Crimea has no problems with the government." At the same time he spoke against the president of Crimea being granted directive powers and against Ilma Umerov, a Crimean Tartar deputy, being appointed to the post of Crimea's social policy minister.

Serhiy Tsekov added that the city of Sevastopol should be fully integrated in Crimea and that "if Crimea's authorities fail to achieve this in a civilized manner, a decision will—in the worst case—be taken declaring Sevastopol the capital of Crimea." Oleksiy Melnikov, Supreme Council of Crimea deputy chairman, backed that opinion, saying: "If Russia does not need Sevastopol, Crimea does."

Economic, Political Problems Seen for Crimea's Meshkov

MK2106114594 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 4

[Pavel Lomakin report from the "Situation in Ukraine" column: "If Meshkov Did Not Exist, Kravchuk Would Have Invented Him"]

[Text] Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov has made a move that is rather surprising in the runup to the elections in Ukraine, which are so critical for him too. A very long move, at that: to Geneva, at the invitation and at the expense of the international nongovernmental organization Forum, thus giving rise to numerous rumors among his countrymen.

Supporters regard Meshkov's trip as a visit by a political leader recognized in the West, while gossip-hungry cynics see it as a trip to open a Swiss bank account. Be that as it may, Meshkov left with an easy mind: According to surveys, even though the Crimeans will go to the polls, in the majority of cases they will not vote for Leonid Kravchuk but for Leonid Kuchma. Generally, it is foolish to deny that Meshkov is an extraordinary figure on the CIS political stage. Public calm on the peninsula—as well as relations between Simferopol and Kiev—largely depends on him. The Crimean president's trip to Moscow and the inviting of metropolitan economists to Crimea are seen as his most successful moves. Yevgeniy Saburov assumed office virtually painlessly, which is more than can be said for his Moscow team. The Crimean Supreme Soviet in particular has started to drop broad hints that the president, by betting on the Muscovites, has fallen hostage to cabinet politics not formulated in Crimea, and it has begun to challenge Meshkov's edict-issuing powers.

True, the slogan "face to face with Russia" has not lost its attraction to the Crimeans. It is also significant that Kravchuk, who planned to visit the mutinous peninsula in the course of his election campaign, has not so far made up his mind. The friction between Simferopol and Kiev has brought dividends not only to Meshkov. Occasionally, he has acted too sharply, which in the absence of open support from Moscow only heightened passions in Kiev over Ukraine's territorial integrity and brought considerable political dividends to Kravchuk, custodian of the Constitution, both in the West and at home.

If preelection polls reflect the situation adequately and the majority of Crimeans and other Ukrainian voters vote for Kuchma, even then Meshkov's problems will not diminish. Because so far, political demarches come off better with him than economic solutions. Kuchma for his part—even though, judging by his election statements, he advocates a union with Russia, on the one hand, and Crimea's sovereignty within Ukraine's borders on the other—will hardly put up with sluggish reform. Furthermore, in this event Meshkov will most likely also have to revise some of the decisions made. For example, it is not clear how a constitution revived by the Supreme Soviet, restoring the independent Crimean Republic, will fit into the concept of state structure a la Kuchma.

Possibly, it was the uncertainty of the situation that forced Meshkov to leave his country at such a crucial moment. A month ago, during the Crimean president's trip to Cyprus, Kravchuk sanctioned an unexpected landing in Simferopol of top military brass and special task forces. This enabled Meshkov once more to show himself off as an independent leader. It is unlikely that anything like this will happen now (discounting Kravchuk's possible visit) but it is not ruled out that Kiev is provoking Meshkov to undertake another demarche.

Candidate Urges Maximum Economic Independence for Crimea

LD2206114494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Crimea must be given the maximum of economic independence. This is a condition for settlement of the

Crimean issue, said Vladimir Lanovoy, who is a candidate for the Ukrainian presidency.

Lanovoy said during a meeting with the Economic Council under the Crimean president that most tax revenues must remain in Crimea and be used for local needs.

During his visit to Crimea Lanovoy met with representatives of the Crimean-Tatar parliament and discussed the issue concerning compensation for the damage caused by the state to the deported and oppressed peoples returning to Crimea.

Lanovyy Views Current Political, Economic Issues

LD2106183394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Summary] Simferopol—On 20 June presidential candidate Volodymyr Lanovyy visited Crimea where he met Viktor Mezhak, the deputy chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council. He also took part in a meeting of the higher economic council, which was was formed on 19 June under the Crimean Supreme Council presidium.

In his speeches Volodymyr Lanovyy supported the idea of democracy and economic regionalization. In his view, it is necessary to give the regions the right of autonomy in budgetary and tax affairs. He supported the idea of private ownership of land, but in the form of shares in collective or cooperative farms.

Speaking about his economic program, Volodymyr Lanovyy said that the duties on exports and imports are very high and that he would abolish export duties. As regards import duties, he considered that it should be no higher than 5 percent. He also believes there should be no restrictions on trade with the exception of those on strategic goods.

Moroz Opposes Trading Land

LD2006173794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1520 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Odessa—Speaking at an election news conference at the oblast council on 20 June, Ukraine presidential candidate Oleksandr Moroz warned about dangers to the planet posed by a demographic explosion and people's desire to own land.

"I am against turning land into a commodity," said Oleksandr Moroz. "In about 15-20 years we will be facing the fourth world war. This war over food will break out halfway between now and the doubling of the planet's population. The world will be ruled by those who will own fertile land. Fate has it that this wealth is now in the hands of the Ukrainian people. If we start trading land, we will wind up on foreign soil in our own country. This must never be allowed."

Answering a question by UNIAN, Oleksandr Moroz confirmed that he is "the only candidate who supports a parliamentary republic" and did not distance himself from the statement in a resolution issued by the plenum of the Ukraine Communist Party Central Committee that "president Moroz alone is able to rid Ukraine of the presidency." Also today, Oleksandr Moroz met representatives of the local labor collectives at Odessa State University, and servicemen at the district officers house. According to the program of his visit to Odessa oblast, the presidential candidate will meet farmers in the rayon center of Kominternove, after which he will travel on to meet voters in Rovno and Volyn oblasts.

Supreme Council Denounces 'Biased' Reporting on Moroz Trip

WS2206080494 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 21 Jun 94

["Text" of the statement released by the Supreme Council press center in Kiev; date not given]

[Text] As is known, for the first time in history, Ukraine's Supreme Council on 15 June initiated and adopted basic principles and directions for developing the Ukrainian economy during the crisis period. A report on this topic was delivered by Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz.

The legislative chairman paid a working visit last week to a number of Ukraine's oblasts and regions to clarify the principles of economic policy and the realistic, concrete steps for implementing these principles during the current stage. It is understandable that during a meeting with working collectives and citizens other issues were discussed, as well. In particular, Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz is being addressed as a candidate for the Ukrainian presidency. Certain organs of the media, however, while covering the working trip by the Ukrainian Supreme Council chairman, allow biased reports or insinuations to be filed, or sometimes simply produced outright provocative reports. Along these lines, the Moscow television company Ostankino made an unsubstantiated statement that Oleksandr Moroz had withdrawn his candidacy and refused to run for president. Alas, this provocative fabrication was picked up by other indiscriminating media, including some in Ukraine, which found themselves in an awkward position before the eyes and ears of their readers and listeners, having swallowed Ostankino's primitive bait. The Supreme Council press center is being addressed by the electors with demands to clarify the essence of these reports—is this true? The press center is authorized to report that this so-called sensational report by the Ostankino television company is a vicious fabrication pursuing certain political goals. There were no reasons for the appearance of such a piece of reporting during either the meeting of Oleksandr Moroz with electors or the news conference. This is not the first time that Ostankino, in its reports from Ukraine, has released disinformation and twisted facts with the purpose of distorting the actual state of things, ignoring the truth—one of the principal requirements of journalism. While covering such important official events as the working trip by the Ukrainian Supreme Council chairman, every paper, every television or radio agency should be even more accurate and objective, and inform people only of the truth, not spread clearly provocative fabrications.

Masol Views New Government, Relations With Russia, Crimea

WS2206102094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 18 Jun 94 p 2

[Interview with Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol by Svitlana Pysarenko in Kiev on 16 June: "Stabilization Is Possible in a Year or a Year and a Half"]

[Text] [Pysarenko] Vitaliy Andriyovych, will you form a new government before the presidential elections?

[Masol] Of course, we will form one; there should be a government. The government, in my opinion, will bring together competent, qualified specialists.

[Pysarenko] You said that the prime minister must head the Executive Branch... Are you convinced that the Supreme Council will adopt such amendments to the Constitution?

[Masol] The parliament will only be adopting amendments in September, after the run-off elections.

[Pysarenko] You said that a year or a year and a half is needed to achieve stabilization. Are you convinced that the people will suffer quietly during this period?

[Masol] I believe that today one must speak the truth: The situation will not improve overnight. People must understand that everything depends on the harvest. If it is good, stabilization will begin a little earlier.

[Pysarenko] Forgive me for asking this, perhaps, unpleasant question: Do you think that you were appointed prime minister as a symbol of 1990, or as a reformer?

[Masol] I would have to say the latter.

[Pysarenko] The press has reported that Masol is going to nationalize commercial banks. Is this true?

[Masol] The press is now free, and it writes whatever it wants. If someone is going to privatize commercial banks, then I would like to ask him: What will happen then; will we live with the old system of planning? I will not.

I want to note, however, that all over the world, states draft plans, have economy ministries, and make balance sheets and forecasts. A state must know what it needs and how much.

[Pysarenko] After answering deputies' questions, did you not have an impression that you are a better marketeer than they?

[Masol] You have already answered your own question.

[Pysarenko] What will be your policy toward Russia?

[Masol] Russia is our primary market. If you can, please find a state which would buy 2-3 million tonnes of sugar from us. Yet, we should also cooperate with the West. The West means modern technology and structural reconstruction of our economy. Russia means energy resources and a market for our goods. We should sell our products. To buy something, one must sell something. These are normal economic relations, and whether we refer to them as a union or a market... We have yet to see.

[Pysarenko] Will you continue the policy of [former acting Prime Minister] Zvyahilskyy on not financing the budget sector?

[Masol] More than half of Ukraine's workers are employed in the budget sector. The budget sector is the nation's gene pool. If we want to lose it, we should not finance education, health care, or science.

[Pysarenko] To what degree will the cabinet be reshuffled?

[Masol] You know, I do not yet know how many people are in the cabinet...

[Pysarenko] Are you satisfied with the current form of cooperation between the government and the National Bank?

[Masol] The government, the Finance Ministry, and the National Bank should work together. Everything depends not on who is subordinated to whom, but on how they cooperate.

[Pysarenko] Who will be finance minister?

[Masol] I will think about it.

[Pysarenko] For whom will you vote in the presidential elections?

[Masol] For those who will be included in the polls...

[Pysarenko] What will be your policy toward the Crimea?

[Masol] Crimea is a part of Ukraine, it is Ukraine, and territorial integrity must be preserved.

[Pysarenko] Would you agree to lease Sevastopol to Russia?

[Masol] This issue as a whole needs attention. Still, there is such a practice in the world, and there is nothing new here. Kazakhstan has leased a launch-site to Russia, and it will profit from that.

[Pysarenko] What is your position on the idea of relations between Ukraine and the Crimea being based on treaties?

[Masol] If we have an integral territory, what kind of treaties can there be?

[Pysarenko] I wish you success and support in the reform process.

Kuchma Interviewed on His Election Platform

PM2106134594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 21 Jun 94 Evening Edition p 6

[Interview with Ukrainian presidential candidate Leonid Kuchma by Stanislav Prokopchuk in Kiev; date not given: "'...And We Will Come Down Hard on the Mafia.' That Is What Ukrainian Presidential Candidate Leonid Kuchma Is Promising His Voters"]

[Text] When Leonid Kravchuk was asked whom he sees as his main rival in the upcoming 26 June presidential elections, his answer was unequivocal—Kuchma. The "duel" in the second round will be with him, the present head of state believes. So, since we recently set out Leonid Kravchuk's election platform on the most important political and economic problems, we decided also to allow Leonid Kuchma to speak out. Our correspondent met with him.

Kiev—[Prokopchuk] Leonid Danilovich, what direction is Ukraine going to take and what will it build if you become president?

[Kuchma] We will build a state in which someone who works honestly has a better life than someone who refuses to work and steals and pilfers from the state. Where a pensioner can live on his pension rather than eke out a pitiful existence and root around in trashcans. Where you can live a life worthy of a human being on the minimum wage.

[Prokopchuk] How do you see Ukraine's state structure, and what do you think of the idea of a federal land-based structure?

[Kuchma] I am a categorical supporter of strong presidential power so that the head of state can assume full responsibility. Initially, I even rule out the post of prime minister. I do not want the president to be able to point the finger at anyone and find a whipping boy and scapegoat.

As for the desire of the Dniester and Donbass regions for a kind of economic federalism, this is a matter not of a wish to escape pressure from the center but of its uselessness. It is little use today. The regions are surviving themselves nowadays, either on their own or by helping each other without intermediaries. The country's budget is practically empty. I was one of the first to advocate a future federal land-based structure and greater economic autonomy for the regions, but without this turning into political autonomy. That would spell the disintegration of statehood. I am opposed to that kind of structure.

[Prokopchuk] In one of your first speeches in parliament as head of government you made the sensational statement that mafia structures and corruption have permeated all upper-echelon power structures. But what stopped you during your year as head of the cabinet of ministers from seeing through to completion at least one major case about oil, say, or the sale of metal at dumping prices....

[Kuchma] Why did I make that statement in the Supreme Council at that time? Because the problem of corruption and the mafia is a matter of personnel policy. Who is in charge of the power ministers? Not the prime minister, but directly the president. What about the courts and the prosecutor's office? Parliament is in charge of them. In this situation what can the premier do except refer cases to the prosecutor's office and make statements in parliament?

During my premiership over 1,500 criminal cases were instigated against high-ranking corrupt officials. Now they have all been quietly shelved. I personally dismissed the directors of all Ukraine's oil refineries for machinations over the export of petroleum products running into hundreds of millions of dollars. They now have their jobs back.... I give my word that if I win the election I will have both the powers and the determination to deal a mortal blow against crime and to come down hard on the mafia.

[Prokopchuk] What in your view is the way out of the Crimean crisis?

[Kuchma] Everyone must clearly realize that Crimea is a component part of Ukraine and proceed on this basis. There can be no question of other terms. Second, there should be no attempts to take back what has already been given away. The Crimeans are asking for greater economic autonomy—fine. Maybe Crimea will indeed be the place where all economic innovations are tried out. There must be an end to saber-rattling and threats: We cannot allow yet another "trouble spot" to appear on the map of the former Union. But some people badly want this. The only possible way out of the Crimean crisis is a full-scale treaty between Kiev and Simferopol that would grant Crimea within Ukraine all possible economic autonomy. In my view the treaty between Russia and Tatarstan is a model for such a solution.

[Prokopchuk] What would be your way of extricating the country from the protracted economic crisis?

[Kuchma] First, privatization. It must take place under strict state control, as it does throughout the world. Otherwise this will only enrich the mafia structures that are tightly interwoven with the bureaucratic apparatus. The foundation of the economy must be not ideological phantoms, whatever their hue, but people's real interests. The experience of economic development of countries like the FRG and Sweden cogently demonstrates this in practice.

Second, the taxation system must immediately be fundamentally changed, since it stifles both private enterprise and state enterprises. In this connection the budget structure must also be radically revised, making a point of increasing the share of expenditure earmarked for the social sphere, science, education, and specifically for increasing pensions. After all, it is impossible to live on pensions today.

Third. There is a need to eliminate all restrictions on the creation of a single economic space in the CIS countries, which over 80 percent of industry is geared toward. This question is not just Leonid Kuchma's view but a matter of the survival of the entire state. And the fixed exchange rate of the karbovanets is totally disastrous for our economy and is merely a source of fabulous wealth for certain powers that be. Its abolition is a priority measure.

[Prokopchuk] All your election campaign opponents accuse Kuchma of dragging Ukraine into a new inviolable Union and say that if he comes to power Ukraine will lose its autonomy and sovereignty. How ideally do you see Ukraine's policy vis-a-vis Russia?

[Kuchma] Because of its geographical position, historical past, and the entire spirit of the people Ukraine cannot play the role of "cordon sanitaire" between Russia and the remaining European countries that has been foisted upon it. Its historical mission is very different: Ukraine must become a bridge for the mutual enrichment of the civilizations of West and East. A bridge across which the most sophisticated and vitally necessary technologies pass.

Russia, with which we are linked by thousands of historical, economic, and cultural bonds, is especially important in this respect. The path of confrontation with it is quite disastrous for Ukraine and entails total collapse and the possible loss of statehood. Relations of "special partnership" like those between the United States and Canada must inevitably be established between our countries.

Finally—a few words about economic integration, not about Kuchma's desire to create a new version of the former Union. Integration is the basis of the current economic prosperity of the EEC countries. Integration, and not the subordination of one country to others, and the creation of regional organizations for all-around equal cooperation, as is being done in Europe and North America. The CIS must become a model not of "civilized divorce" but of the ability to preserve old economic, cultural, and spiritual links while adapting them in the light of objective conditions and to organize new links.

[Prokopchuk] So who do you think is going to win the upcoming elections?

[Kuchma] I am sure the people will make the correct choice 26 June.... Demagoguery will no longer work, and the presidential candidates who have made it the basis of their activity have not got the slightest chance of winning.

Kuchma Election Address

LD2106151094 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1645 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Election address by presidential candidate Leonid Kuchma—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed voters, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak to you again, to reflect, to set forth my views for the present and the future. After long reflection I decided to join on the difficult election campaign for the highest post—that of president of Ukraine. I made this decision because I am deeply convinced that no one can stand aside when people are (?living in poverty).

I believe that the people of Ukraine deserve a better fate and a better life than what we have today. For now, the whole people have been forced to pay a terrible price for the incompetence and short-sightedness, the lack of will and refusal to work of those who governed the state for four years [words indistinct], talk, make promises, and turn entirely different things into reality. It is much easier to lay the blame on four consecutive governments.

Recently we have all witnessed the unprecedented propaganda campaign which has developed against me personally and against the political course for which I stand. These [word indistinct] are numerous accusations of antipatriotism, the desire to restore the Soviet Union, to give away Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet to Russia, anonymous falsehoods, plain lies, and an information blockade.

Why has there been so much of this? I will reply. Those who do this are simply afraid, they are afraid that they will have to answer for betraying the hopes of the people, for the collapse of the economy, for helping corruption and criminal structures, for the unprecedented impoverishment of the people.

So maybe it is time to think about it—maybe the trouble is that the state does not have a master.

A few words about the present economic situation, which has become catastrophic in the last half-year, when Ukraine's industry practically came to a stop. Adventurism in the economy undoubtedly (?governs) [word indistinct] now. [passage omitted] The country, according to all economic laws, is on the verge of a catastrophe, and the people (?are without means) of existence. Believe me, it is painful to watch, when crime prevails everywhere, while honest people are unable to survive or feed their children.

I am certain that if the current economic and political course stays the same, even worse times and even greater ruin await Ukraine. I am convinced that order has to be brought to Ukraine, and that this can only be done when the individual and his rights are at the center of attention of all branches of power - legislative, executive, and judicial. All citizens (?of Ukraine have to feel) equal, irrespective of their nationality, religion, or position. I (?believe) and will endeavor for all to be equal in the eyes of the law, and for the law to be above all.

I want to assure you that if I am elected president, I, Leonid Kuchma, am ready to assume all responsibility for the state of affairs in the country, without looking for someone else to take over the burden of problems.

I am deeply convinced that Ukraine needs a new economic and political course. It will include a rejection of self-isolation, the restoration of all mutually advantageous economic, spiritual, and cultural links with the former republics of the Soviet Union, above all with Russia. In my opinion, Ukraine is not a cordon sanitaire between Europe and Russia. Ukraine is a [word indistinct] bridge between West and East. It is a country which should be open for cooperation [word indistinct]. Only then will new technologies and resources come here. Our state's future lies in using them.

But now the economy is a hostage to unwise policies. My aim has always been and will be for the economy to be above everything else. Because I am convinced that Ukraine will become a real state only when the economy starts working, when production starts to increase, when we create a powerful economic system. All conditions for this exist here.

How to do this? If I am elected president of Ukraine, I consider it necessary to restore, without interference by the state, the abruptly disrupted economic links, to create a single economic space with CIS countries on the model of the European Community or the American Free Trade Area. I consider it necessary to strive for Ukraine's full-fledged entry into the economic union and will speak in favor of all states signing a currency and customs agreement on equal terms.

Customs-houses and borders should record and monitor the movement of goods and protect our domestic market, but ill-thought out and irrational customs duties need to be eliminated. Retail prices will immediately go down, which every citizen of Ukraine will notice.

I think that in the economic sphere we need, above all, to conduct market reforms vigorously. Not reforms for the sake of reforms, but for the sake of the well-being of the people. Because otherwise they will be doomed to [word indistinct].

If I am elected president, the taxation system will be reviewed and liberalized. Income should not be taxed, only profits should be taxed, as is the practice worldwide. The fixed exchange rate between the karbovanets and the dollar will be urgently eliminated. It destroys all of our exports and makes production loss-making.

Equal conditions for the existence of all forms of ownership will be ensured—state, private, and collective ownership. The financial and banking spheres will be put in order. Permanent (?economic) regulations for the (?ruble zone) and Ukrainian enterprise will be created.

In the area of state-building I am in favor of granting as many rights as possible to the regions in resolving economic and cultural problems. This in particular will reliably guarantee Ukraine's territorial integrity and current borders.

I will strive to grant official status to the Russian language in Ukraine, with Ukrainian retaining the status of state language. (?We) believe that the situation whereby Russian has the rights of a foreign language here is not only a mistake, but a dangerous mistake.

I have never talked anywhere about restoring the Soviet Union, because a return to the past is impossible. But I will do everything so that Ukraine develops good-neighborly relations with all countries, especially with those with which we are linked by history, culture, and economy.

I want to emphasize that the course toward mutually advantageous strategic partnership with Russia does not mean that we should have less friendly relations with the United States or France, say. I have never concealed that I am a supporter of Ukrainian statehood. (?But I have always) been and will continue to be a resolute opponent of developing statehood on the foundations of isolationism and anti-Russian sentiments.

I want to speak separately about the problems of rural areas. [passage omitted] I regard as inadmissible [words indistinct] the forced (?division) of collective farms, for they are now our main source of food. I will have an attentive and careful attitude to property reforms concerning the land. I think that collective farms' land should not be sold, but should belong to those who cultivate it. But unproductive land, land under buildings and factories, dacha plots, should be sold freely. Otherwise private foreign capital will not come to us.

In social policy my fundamental position is this: state education and health care should be free, because, tell me please, who here can pay for this now? A handful of people. The wages of doctors, teachers, servicemen, and the militia should ensure a dignified life for the individual, and not a half-starved existence. I do not want students and pensioners to be beggars in our country. But increasing wages to [word indistinct], grants and pensions, can be done only if production starts to work, and if there are radical changes in the structure of the budget. [passage omitted]

My opponents shamelessly [words indistinct] special powers, but did not use them. But I only had the illusion of power, because real power means personnel, administrative structures, finances and law enforcement bodies. All of this was in the hands of the president and the Supreme Council. The government only had the right to issue decrees, which were coordinated with the president's team, the president personally, and with the

Supreme Council. This was only the illusion of power, I repeat. My opponents maintain that I (?began) to campaign against the mafia, but I did not take the matter to its conclusion. But my government conducted hundreds of checks and inspections and handed over quite a few [word indistinct] to the procuracy and the law enforcement [words indistinct].

I want to assure you that if I am elected president, I will have sufficient powers and resoluteness to take what has been started to its conclusion. I am in general convinced that the new president should from the outset declare real war on corruption and crime. My opponents are trying to blame Kuchma for the price increases but I know that any respectable scientific [word indistinct] can confirm that those who were not able to or could not (?take) political decisions were to blame for the increases in prices. And (?I was virtually declared an enemy) for the attempt to conclude an economic union (?with Russia).

But it was understandable to all that an economic union meant markets for our goods, stability of prices for energy-carriers, millions of permanent jobs for workers. I am convinced that time will (?change understanding) and many people will be ashamed of their actions. Today I want to implement these plans and ideas, which I was not allowed to implement in 1993. I want my children and grandchildren to live in a wealthy, democratic sovereign Ukraine within its current borders, so that (?it is) equally respected in Russia and America, for them to be proud of their state.

I want our people to have a worthy life, for order to reign in the country, and for people to have faith in the future. I want a master to take charge in Ukraine who is responsible for everything. All together we have to bring Ukraine out of the crisis, work together and build, take care of the old and weak. To do this we need to search for unifying and integrating (?values), which will unite East and West, North and South. We have such human values. These are good, work, accord, order, and decency. Thank you.

Kuchma Suggests Kravchuk 'Might Become the Winner'

WS2206072594 Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] On 16 June, Leonid Kuchma, one of the candidates for Ukraine's president, visited Kharkov. At the news conference he pointed out that the Interregional Bloc of Reforms had been a declaratory structure and attempts had failed to form a party on its basis.

Speaking about the election of Vitaliy Masol to the post of Ukraine's prime minister, Kuchma voiced his discontent, saying that "in economic terms this was a step back."

Leonid Kuchma stated that he was not sure whether he would be able to win the elections and suggested that Leonid Kravchuk might become the winner.

Kuchma Campaigns in Vinnytsya, Urges Economic Independence

WS2206091694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Presidential candidate Leonid Kuchma yesterday visited Vinnytsya. On the threshold of 21st century, a stone-age economy cannot ensure Ukraine's full-fledged existence. In the candidate's opinion, Ukraine's path is to develop its economy in a modern way, with a national market and capital. Leonid Kuchma stands for mutually beneficial forms of integration with the CIS and the entire world. The state has already gone through the stage of declaring political independence. [Words indistinct] is the confirmation of real economic independence, the presidential candidate believes.

Kravchuk Campaigns in Odessa, Views Yeltsin, Masol

WS2206072994 Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Leonid Kravchuk, one of the candidates for the president of Ukraine, visited Odessa Oblast on 16 June. The program of the trip included visits to Izmail and Belgorod-Dnestrovskyy, a meeting with Odessa residents in the Politechnical University house of culture, and a live program on local television. Kravchuk was accompanied by his adviser Valentyn Symonenko, Minister of Finance Hryhoriy Pyatachenko, Odessa State Administration Head Vladlen Ilyin, Oblast Council Chairman Ruslan Bodelan, and Odessa Mayor Leonid Cherneha.

Speaking before Odessa residents, Kravchuk negatively assessed the reluctance of the oblast council to grant a patch of land for the building of the oil terminal. Kravchuk emphasized: "I think that the oblast council still has time to think and make a decision that would suit Ukraine's interests."

Answering a question about his relations with Yeltsin, President Kravchuk pointed out: "Our personal relations are normal. We even know when we have to telephone each other. With regard to Yeltsin's perception of Ukraine, he signed the tripartite agreement on behalf of Russia and granted Ukraine recognition of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Of course, the president of Russia, just like his Ukrainian counterpart, has to protect the interests of his state."

President Kravchuk shared his opinion about the newly appointed Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol. He, in particular, pointed out: "I have never been Masol's opponent. In 1990, he resigned after he had been summoned to the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and proposed to make this step. At that time he unsuccessfully tried to find support outside Ukraine."

This is how Kravchuk explained his decision to propose Masol's candidacy: "My decision was prompted by the specific procedure for the Supreme Council's approval. I had to propose someone who would not cause a split and opposition. There were other candidates, too, but I understood that they did not have a chance and preferred not to hurt their feelings. Now, the main thing is not to stand in Masol's way."

Answering a question about the relations between eastern and western Ukraine, Kravchuk stated: "I know both parts well and I am sure that no problems exist at the level of ordinary people. However, there are gentlemen who shout on behalf of the people. Both in the east and the west people want to live free lives."

Kravchuk informed the audience that in accordance with a presidential edict, the National Bank of Ukraine had transferred 1.7 trillion karbovantsi to assist the agricultural sector.

He added that a fixed exchange rate of the U.S. dollar would soon be introduced in Ukraine—20,000 karbovantsi. According to Kravchuk, should this step fail to significantly influence prices, a fluctuating rate will be introduced.

Kravchuk's Economic Adviser Urges Increased Pace of Reform

WS2206115094 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign investors will only begin to deposit their capital in the Ukrainian economy if there is political and economic stabilization. This was stated in an interview with the UKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI magazine by Bohdan Havrylyshyn, an independent adviser to the Ukrainian president. He noted that if the current pace of reform is maintained, Ukraine may end up in international isolation and be transformed into an economic refugee. Bohdan Havrylyshyn emphasized that without conducting deep economic transformations, Ukraine cannot count on financial assistance from the West.

Association Asks Presidential Candidates To Withdraw

LD2106211994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1925 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—The press service of the Ukraina democratic association reports that the association has written to presidential candidates Valeriy Babych and Petro Talanchuk, urging them to withdraw from the presidential race for the benefit of Leonid Kravchuk. The statement points out that, "in view of the threat to our state's independence, the Ukraina democratic association has resolved that the situation can be improved only if the current president, Leonid Kravchuk, who has proved himself to be a consistent champion of Ukrainian statehood and the country's democratic development, wins the 26 June election."

The Ukraina democratic association has prepared documents in support of Kravchuk, signed by the leaders of most of the association's parties and organizations. Support groups campaigning for the current president will soon leave for Ukraine's eastern and southern regions.

The press service of the Ukraina democratic association told UNIAN that the appeal to the presidential candidates was sent on 15 June, but no reply has been received thus far.

Lanovyy Presents Election Platform

LD2106213894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Election speech by presidential candidate Volodymyr Lanovyy; from the "Ahead of the presidential election" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed compatriots, my dear Ukrainians: This is an historic moment. We are choosing the way for us to move forward. We are deciding the fate of our country in the very near future and after.

Our country, whose independence was secured by scores of generations of our compatriots in suffering, has not yet become our homeland as we had hoped. The state is actually in debt to our people and this debt is mounting up, rather than going down. We know that we are owed in terms of our bank deposits, in terms of payments for agricultural produce, and in terms of (?our bonds). We are in fact being deprived of the right to work worthily to produce goods, to be able to feed our children and elderly, and after many years of work to keep our money in savings. Citizens today, unfortunately, are being deprived of the possibility to receive adequate medical treatment, to study, and to be provided with the bare essentials. Our work is still being paid for by monetary substitutes, rather than money. The laws on paying wages, pensions and grants are de facto being violated in our state. The state is not providing full and timely financial support for our country's invalids, servicemen, and orphans. Country people are not being paid in time. All these are our country's and our state's debts to our people.

People are dreaming about their own enterprises. They are waiting for what they were promised. Meanwhile, money, foreign currency, and some of the most valuable assets are being taken away from enterprises.

The state of the peasantry, this basis of our country, is particularly poor. Today, they do not even have the right to their own plot of land where their fathers and grandfathers lived. The inactivity of state law enforcement agencies is provoking among people mistrust in the authorities and uncertainty in the morrow, which will lead to social instability.

Today we need strong power and a well-chartered course, which would lead us to normalizing the situation in the midst of our country and putting an end to social, political, and regional conflicts.

What I am planning to do is this: We need to bring in the principle of social justice in society, which is the main thing, and to make the economy effective for the sake of our people's well-being. People must be able to work freely and earn what they have earned, while the state must make adequate financial provision for those unable to work. Our task, in fact, is to restore our production, curb the crisis, and stabilize prices, wages, and money. Everything should be done for enterprises to work and be profitable.

To that end, we will above all expand enterprises' rights, cut taxes, and provide broad opportunities for them to trade and export their products, given the mandatory return of the foreign currency earned to our Ukraine. We must also create conditions that guarantee trade and settlements with Russia in order for us to implement joint projects together, thus providing additional contracts for our enterprises. By means of steps such as these, it will be possible in as short a time as 10 months to stabilize our prices, considerably increase budgetary revenues, cut credit interest rates, and (?consolidate) our currency.

It is, however, impossible to pull out of the crisis without improving the state of affairs in agriculture. We must by all means turn our attention to the peasantry and create conditions for them to work. With this aim, there should be stable prices, payment for produce should be guaranteed, every service required by the peasantry should be provided for them,and we should make everybody the master of their land and the master of their farms. Their right of ownership of their money incomes should be protected and their bank deposits guaranteed so that the peasantry can accumulate their wealth and their property and be certain about their future.

Overcoming the crisis will make it possible, in my view, in as short a time as one year to raise average wages and pensions by four- to five-fold. It is only then that we will see some return in work by the people and respect for our state.

In the first few weeks of my presidential rule, I will return to the people what the state owes them. We will compensate them for their losses from the devaluation of their money in bank savings. The people will be given real and equal rights in privatizing enterprises and will then have additional incomes from owning these enterprises.

We will enhance the value of morality in our society and begin by changing our attitude toward children, invalids, women, and elderly, i.e. those unable to protect themselves. To that end, we will introduce new forms of social benefits by increasing budgetary revenues. Primarily, it will be monthly payments for every child until it reaches the age of 17. Second, we will provide special medicines and ecologically safe products for those who suffered as the result of Chernobyl or who live in contaminated areas. Third, we will increase pensions in real terms in order to compensate the people in full for their health that has deteriorated, or the life that has been lost. The state will also provide all invalids with social (?security), which is our moral duty. We will create normal conditions for invalids to live and communicate properly and actively.

None of this can be achieved without reforming state power. This primarily applies to the president of Ukraine. He will be entirely responsible for the state of affairs in our country and for actions by executive power. We have had enough of shifting responsibility on to the premier.

We will also carry out a judicial reform and form a judicial power (?which) would ensure that law is implemented in society and would supervise both the president and the Supreme Council and other establishments.

The division of power, awaited by all of us, must take place at national, regional, and local levels. Regions must be given the right to settle social and economic issues on their territory independently; with this aim they must have a stable budgetary basis and taxation, and regulate on their territory both the production and investment types of activity.

We will resolve the issue of political and economic powers with the Republic of Crimea in order to enable Crimea's population to live a rich and free life in our country, at the same time as ensuring the constancy of its borders and the integrity of its territory. We believe that a system of local self-government should allow people democratically to influence their life, for the land that is being distributed regionally and locally out there, and for the communal property and funds to be used for the needs of the people that live there [sentence as heard].

Russian, Tartar, Polish, and German people and other nationalities will live in our country, being proud of their Ukrainian citizenship.

I am certain that the only way for us is to become a rich European state. I believe in the Ukrainian people's power and strength. We know what we want. So let us take hold of this and decide our future ourselves.

Prime Minister meets TU Leader, Discuss Tariff Agreement

LD2106162494 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2115 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev, 20 Jun—As Ukrainian TV has reported, newly elected Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol met Oleksandr Stoyan, chairman of the Ukraine's Federation of Trade Unions, and other trade union leaders. They discussed the need to adopt urgent measures in order to increase production, which would remove tension in most of the sectors of the national economy, and promote a strengthening of workers' social protection.

They also discussed problems of social insurance and ways of resolving conflicts between the government and trade union concerning the implementation and setting up of a tariff agreement.

President Issues Decree on Retail Trade Regulations

LD2106220894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2100 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Kiev, 21 Jun—In an effort to establish proper order in the sphere of trade, to protect the rights of the consumer, and to safeguard the quality of goods, the president of Ukraine has issued a decree on urgent measures to ensure compliance with legislation regulating the sphere of trade and to step up the fight against profiteering.

In his decree, the president orders the government of the Republic of Crimea, local state administrations, and local council executive committees to take urgent measures to ensure full compliance with the rules of trade. These measures include regulation of the retail network and marketplace sales, allocation and fitting out of trade outlets, increased control over the quality of goods, and suspension of unauthorized trading and unauthorized outlets. The president has instructed local authorities to suspend all trading businesses that violate trade regulations.

The president orders that deputy heads of relevant local state executive authorities take personal responsibility for the establishment of proper order in the trade network. The document also says: "Ukraine's State Television and Radio Company and the Ukrainian National Information Agency, together with law enforcement bodies, Ukraine's State Committee for the Protection of Consumers' Rights, and Ukraine's Ministries of Economy and Health are advised to give wider publicity to issues concerning the effort to fight offenses in the area of trade."

Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy of the Coordinating Committee Against Corruption and Organized Crime, has been put in charge of control over the implementation of the decree.

Government Attempts To Maintain Deficit-Free Budget

WS2106134494 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1751 GMT 20 Jun 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 25 , 13-19 Jun 94]

[Text] Over 1994's five months, two-thirds of the planned revenues were remitted to the state budget, the then acting Premier Yefim Zvyagilski stated in his speech in the Ukrainian parliament on 14 June.

The cash gap between the planned revenues and budgetary expenditures in 1994's 1st quarter amounted to almost 40 trillion karbovantsi [K].

NBU [National Bank of Ukraine] granted 26.6 trillion [currency not specified] credits to bridge it.

Considering the latter circumstance, expenditures amounted to K145 trillion (67 per cent).

82.8 per cent of budgetary outlays were channelled to welfare and support for societal, cultural, educational and other state-financed institutions related to the societal domain.

According to Mr. Zvyagilski, reduced revenues resulted from not only objective causes, but because of "certain ministers and departments having failed to take adequate moves to mobilize revenues for the state budget, as provided for by the Law."

In the meantime, Vitali Masol, the newly appointed prime minister of Ukraine, said in his inaugural speech in the Ukrainian parliament that, according to IMF experts, about 1.3 billion US dollars hard currency incomings had failed to return to Ukraine in 1993.

Belarus

Visit by Russian Delegation Said Prompted by Election Fears

WS2106140694 Minsk RID in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] A group of Russian Duma deputies led by Konstantin Zatulin, head of the Committee for CIS Affairs, unexpectedly arrived in Minsk at the end of last week.

According to official accounts, the aim of the Russians' visit was to discuss three issues with their Belarusian colleagues: Belarusian-Russian relations, the unification of monetary systems, and the Belarusian attitude toward amending the Constitution. According to Belarusian People's Deputy Uladzimir Novik, however, the visit was actually prompted by the upcoming presidential elections in Belarus. The deputy shared with an RID correspondent his impressions from the meetings with the Russian delegation: "I believe that Russian experts analyze the situation in Belarus and realize that the image of Vyachaslaw Kebich is very unattractive. Other candidates, including Paznyak, Lukashenka, and Shushkevich, have a much higher rating. That is why the Russian side is undertaking certain steps, given that it needs a "loyal" president.

People like Paznyak or Shushkevich intend to build a Belarusian state and not a northwestern province [of Russia]. Besides, neither of them is going to disrupt ties or contacts with Russia. The visitors, undoubtedly, had one goal—to support the pro-Russian candidate, who will then walk in the footsteps of Russia's politics and pursue servile policies. Zatulin did not try to conceal the fact that Russia has large military-political and strategic interests in Belarus. In particular, he pointed out that the Republic hosts important military bases in Vileyka and Baranovichi, and that it can have its bases in Russia, too. This was said in such a mocking manner that my impression is—Russia does not want to see or perceive us as a state. I think that their delegation has demonstrated that there is no normal sober atmosphere in the Russian Duma and no prospects for equal cooperation. The spirit of a great empire prevails there, and plans are being made to revive this empire.

Zatulin told me that the union was disbanded for Russia to build a new empire. That is why I have the impression that the unification of monetary systems is just another invention of Russian wizards and strategists, aimed at eliminating Belarusian statehood. They are ready to ratify this absurd agreement if this can help their protege. A majority of Belarusian deputies present at the meeting, however, opposed the agreement and the introduction of amendments to the Constitution."

Ambassador to Ukraine on Bilateral Relations

WS2206084594 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 16 Jun 94 p 5

[Interview with Belarusian Ambassador to Ukraine Vitaliy Vladimirovich Kurashyk by M. Shymanskiy; place and date not given: "I Am Ambassador; What Can I Do?"]

[Excerpt] [Shymanskiy] Well, Vitaliy Vladimirovich, what can you tell me about your work at the embassy?

[Kurashyk] Our embassy is staffed by only three diplomats, so we are swamped with work. In addition, everything is complicated and our bilateral relations are not so cloudless. My situation, however, is rather secure because I am personally acquainted with all the leaders of Ukraine. My previous work as Crimean prime minister has served me well.

Hence, if I need a high-level meeting I have no problems getting one.

[Shymanskiy] Are there many Belarusians residing in Ukraine?

[Kurashyk] Some 450,000. This is not a small number. Approximately 52,000 Belarusians live in the Crimea, where the situation is rather troubled. Our countrymen turn to our embassy with various problems such as, for example, issuing visas, helping with inheritance issues, and so on. Of course, we do not turn their requests down and try to conscientiously perform all consular duties.

[Shymanskiy] Ukraine is experiencing a rather tense social- political situation. How would you characterize it?

[Kurashyk] The legislative elections are over, the corps of deputies has been formed and has begun work. The Republic is looking forward to the presidential elections. However, this implies harsh political battles. Well, the same refers to Belarus, which is also electing a president.

Ukraine has its own specific features. It is more heterogeneous than Belarus. Its west differs from its south in political sentiments and administrative organization. In addition, it has the Crimea, which has its own president. All this, along with a deep economic crisis, intensifies the tension.

[Shymanskiy] Belarusian-Ukrainian relations have traditionally been strong, friendly, and diverse. We have always been proud of this. Neighbors, brothers.... What about current relations?

[Kurashyk] Currently, some politicians want to disintegrate our brotherly relations. Let us take the economy, for example. Our Belarusian economy is in many aspects closely connected with the Ukrainian economy. We became independent states (of course, this is a positive issue) but our economic contacts were severed and this inflicted a lot of difficulties and problems on us.

Of all CIS states, Belarus remained as virtually the only state with which Ukraine could cooperate on a partnership basis. What about our current foreign trade contacts? They do not meet our demands. I can provide only two figures for you. Last year, Belarus fulfilled only 41.7 percent of its deliveries to Ukraine; Ukraine—44 percent.

[Shymanskiy] Let us be sincere: Are you willing to admit that the two states simply do not want to cooperate with one another?

[Kurashyk] Why? We simply cannot exist without one another. We have signed some 20 intergovernmental agreements. This is a considerable number. How are they being implemented? To my regret, not properly. Our mutual deliveries do not meet the demands of both Belarus and Ukraine.

[Shymanskiy] So, what is the problem?

[Kurashyk] I will provide you with only some of the arguments. The mechanism of holding control over the implementation of these agreements has not been worked out properly. Both sides are responsible for this situation. In addition, frequent changes in the Ukrainian leadership also blocked the implementation of our pacts. During the past three years, there have been four prime ministers in Ukraine. When a prime minister quits, his entire team also quits. When I meet with a minister and remind him that this or that agreement is not being implemented, it often happens that he knows nothing at all about this issue. It is as if he does not have to implement the decisions adopted before him. However, the point of discussion is bilateral agreements, the implementation of which is not a prime minister's private business but an important part of state economic policy.

[Shymanskiy] Well, let us assume that frequent changes of leaders is a domestic matter of Ukraine. However, can both states implement what they have already agreed upon?

[Kurashyk] In my opinion, we should establish—both in Ukraine and Belarus—a sort of coordinating center to deal with our trade and economic relations. In fact, we currently lack an organization which is responsible for implementing these agreements. Each ministry is responsible for its own narrow interests. Even statistical data issued by the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, and the Customs Committee are completely different. Can this continue on this way? Ukraine has already adopted a decision to establish its own trading house in Minsk. Belarus should follow this example.

Belarusian and Ukrainian enterprises can resolve many issues regarding their mutual deliveries. In fact, they will resolve these issues on the condition that they have efficient managers. This is good because you should not stand idly by and wait until politicians make a deal.

[Shymanskiy] This opinion is expressed not only by you, as Belarusian ambassador to Ukraine, but also by our Belarusian managers. This is the voice of one crying out in the wilderness. How long will this last? Can our embassy do anything?

[Kurashyk] We can cry as long as we wish, however, no one will resolve issues for us. We should join our forces and seek real ways of stabilizing our bilateral trade and economic relations. What does our embassy do in this regard? I am sincere: We could not handle these issues before because we lacked experts. However, our embassy has now hired Petr Pyasetskiy as our trade and economic adviser. He is an efficient and enterprising person, who well understands both the system of production and economics. So, appropriate work is now under way.

We chose a large group of Belarusian enterprises which are leaders in their sectors and have a high export potential. They have to calculate mutual deliveries in karbovanetses and Belarusian rubles. They have already drafted an agreement on this issue. We have high hopes that this agreement will soon be signed.

They Cut the Branch on Which They Sat

[Shymanskiy] I know that the Belarusian Scientific-Industrial Association and the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs do a lot in this direction. How do you assess their efforts?

[Kurashyk] You properly defined their work as efforts. Of course, I approve of their work and try to support those who can do something in this regard. First of all, I am speaking about Belarusian and Ukrainian managers of enterprises. They do everything possible to draw our economies closer.

[Shymanskiy] This is a very difficult thing to do because even the leaders of our states cannot solve this issue properly. What can managers do?

[Kurashyk] Nevertheless, they have managed to do something. Recently, Belarusian and Ukrainian industrialists met in Kiev and discussed their business relations. I am referring to direct economic relations between Belarusian and Ukrainian enterprises. They decided to draft a program on mutual cooperation to establish joint projects and develop new types of competitive products... As far as I know, interesting proposals will be submitted to our governments.

[Shymanskiy] Are Belarusian and Ukrainian politicians keeping themselves for themselves? Who listens to them?

[Kurashyk] Excuse me, but it is no fault of theirs if no one listens to them. Let those people who—due to their official positions—have to listen and react to them. I am holding out hope that the Belarusian and Ukrainian Governments—to which participants in this meeting addressed their proposals—will behave in this way.

Does our Ambassador Have To Wait Long in Ukrainian President's Admission Room?

[Shymanskiy] It seems to me that there are other arguments negatively affecting our bilateral relations. They are of a political nature.

[Kurashyk] The point is that neither the Belarusian nor the Ukrainian Government has the patience to tolerate some political developments. For example, I can hear some people in Ukraine criticizing Belarusian-Russian economic relations, in particular, their intention to unite in a single ruble zone.

[Shymanskiy] Why should Belarus coordinate its policy with Ukraine? It is a sovereign state...

[Kurashyk] You are right. Belarus can choose its own political and economic track in line with the wishes of its people, legislature, and government. Next. Not all people realize why Belarus decided to become a nonnuclear state. I have to explain this often, primarily to foreign diplomats accredited in Kiev. I am not boasting but they often meet me and talk about Belarusian developments. As to the question of our nonnuclear status, I explain to them that one Chernobyl—the consequences of which will have to be dealt with for several decades—was quite enough for Belarus. In fact, we are alone in implementing the Chernobyl cleanup program. Who would even think about nuclear weapons in such a situation?

[Shymanskiy] Are you often received by President Kravchuk? How long do you usually have to wait to be received by the president?

[Kurashyk] Why should I often visit the president? We should not bother the president with various and sundry trifles. I come to him only on urgent occasions to discuss important state matters. In addition, there are no complications with being received in the presidential office. I have never waited longer than 10 minutes. In my opinion, the point is not in my personality but in the president's attitude toward our Republic and its people. [passage omitted]

Presidential Hopeful Kebich Stresses Russian Ties

PM2106201594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jun 94 p 2

[Interview with Belarusian Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich by Olga Yegorova in Minsk; date not given: "New Trio in Store for Forest?"]

[Text] The first presidential election in the history of the Belorussian [Belarusian] state should take place there 23 June. Six candidates have been registered for this post including the republic's Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich. Here is our correspondent's conversation with him.

[Yegorova] Vyachaslaw Frantsavich, when the people come to the polling places 23 June and vote for a president, they should make a serious choice: Which path should sovereign Belorussia [Belarus] take—should it accompany Russia or go it alone, that is orient itself toward the West....

[Kebich] The union with Russia is my life, my policy. Chernomyrdin and I succeeded in agreeing on Belorussia's joining a single ruble zone with Russia and on close economic cooperation between our countries. The treaty was met with applause in the Russian State Duma. Indeed, it would be strange if Slavs were unable to come to an agreement among themselves.

There is no problem with the Russian-speaking population in Belorussia. What is more, it would not enter anybody's head in Russia to oppress the Belorussians. Almost 70 percent of our people came out in favor of a military and political and economic union with Russia in a public opinion poll.

But the way out of the crisis definitely lies first and foremost in the economic integration of our two countries. We cannot rely on Baltic-Black Sea utopias and assistance from the West. This is why our economic and intellectual potential is oriented on Russia. Can the Belorussian economy survive even for a single day without oil and gas? No. Through our treaty with Russia, we save 30 ECU's on each ton of petroleum and thousands of cubic meters of gas cost us much less than at world prices....

Having seen these future prospects, business circles have supported me. Incidentally, one of the structures which proposed me as a presidential candidate was a scientific-industrial association.

[Yegorova] But, on the other hand, it was actually the directors of major Belorussian enterprises who just recently came out strongly against your policy....

[Kebich] That's right. But the shock has passed. The leaders, together with the government, have started to search for a way out of the situation. Many enterprises have been restructuring themselves as they go along. It is precisely here that Belorussia's professional potential has showed through. Labor collectives, which were successfully preserved by hook or by crook, even when the enterprises were at a standstill, have gotten a second wind.

On the subject of our treaty with Russia, as yet only its first 10 points are "working." But results have already been achieved. In particular the abolition of customs duties gave us the opportunity to lower by 15-20 percent the prices of the CIS's best refrigerators and televisions which are from Belorussia. We immediately entered the market.

[Yegorova] You quite often hear that the bilateral treaty with Russia profits Belorussia alone.

[Kebich] This is, of course, untrue. For our part, we do not take any payment, even in "hares" [Belarusian monetary coupons], from the Russians for the lease of land, the transit of oil, gas, and cargoes, and the upkeep of military units....

[Yegorova] What is to be done about the second part of the treaty with Russia, concerning the union of the monetary systems themselves, which, as we know, goes against the Republic's Constitution?

[Kebich] The Supreme Soviet should decide whether or not there is to be a ruble zone. The government has carried out its work. Well, if the deputies fail to support this idea, the people can be asked. For example, a referendum can be held.

[Yegorova] Do you believe in a referendum?

[Kebich] I believe in the people. I rely on our people's character, their industriousness, patience, and kindness. Also, I will not, of course, permit the rural areas, the kolkhozes to become ruined. If I become president, I will support those who feed us. You tell me what private farmer will think about the elderly peasant woman who has damaged her hands working on the farm, in the fields, and has now grown old. I myself am from a rural area, my mother is now approaching 90 years of age, and she simply cannot leave her land and cottage.

[Yegorova] Can we expect another historical meeting—between Kebich, Chernomyrdin, and Kuchma?

[Kebich] Yes, and it will happen very soon.

[Yegorova] But when?

[Kebich] After the presidential elections....

Kebich Discusses Cooperation With Austrian Chancellor

WS2106142094 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1600 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and Prime Minister Vyacheslaw Kebich held negotiations in Vienna today. Local political observers deemed the recently established contacts between the two countries' leaders as fruitful. Austria supports the balanced political line of Belarus and its moving toward achieving accord within the CIS, as well as strengthening ties with both Russia and European states. During the negotiations, emphasis was placed on ways of seeking new forms of mutual cooperation; interest was also expressed in expanding contacts in the areas of politics, economics, and culture, according to an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

Said To Reach Agreement on Oil Credit

WS2206094394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1600 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] As has already been reported, Belarusian Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich is on a short working visit to Austria. The intention of the visit is to sign a document securing a $100 million credit to our Republic from the Austrian Government. Those credits will be used to purchase Russian oil to meet Belarusian needs and fund its subsequent processing at the Novopolotsk Oil Refinery. It is planned that a [word indistinct] portion of the gasoline and other oil products will be sold on European markets, which will provide hard currency to repay the credit. Vyachaslaw Kebich held a prolonged meeting with Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. Also discussed at the negotiations was the issue of Belarus joining the GATT. Agreement was reached on all issues.

Shushkevich Defends Role in Breakup of Former USSR

LD2106143194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0851 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Lazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 21 Jun—Either we choose the road of normal economic reforms, or we will remain a third-rate country, Stanislav Shushkevich, one of the candidates for the presidency of the Republic of Belarus and former head of parliament, said at a meeting with war and labor veterans.

The candidate expounded on his economic program, which envisages bringing the rate of inflation down to 6-10 percent by the end of the year (whereas now it stands at over 50 percent).

Those attending the meeting were also interested in problems connected with the breakup of the Soviet Union. Many people, particularly the older generation, are criticizing the former speaker, claiming that the USSR was destroyed at Belovezhskaya Pushcha.

Answering his critics, Stanislav Stanislavavich noted that the Soviet Union had in effect broken up before the meeting of the leaders of the Slav states at Viskuli. He reminded them that seven republics—Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Moldova—had not taken any part in the referendum on the future of the USSR, thereby expressing their negative attitude to the empire. Kazakhstan conducted its referendum with a different wording. Over 90 percent of residents in Ukraine voted for sovereignty.

In the opinion of Shushkevich, it was for this very reason that an attempt was made at Viskuli to preserve economic ties between the Republics and to give them a new impetus through the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The presidential candidate believes that this averted a "Yugoslav scenario," which could well have taken much more dangerous forms.

Interviewed on Election Issues

PM2106163394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 2

[Interview with Belarusian presidential candidate Stanislav Shuskevich by Arkadiy Khantsevich; place and date not given: "Stanislav Shushkevich: "We Will Take Russia's Wealth of Experience Into Account"]

[Text] Minsk/Moscow—The presidential elections in Belorussia [Belarus] are on 23 June. Stanislav Shushkevich intends to compete seriously with the other contenders. Have his views of the course of the reforms in the Republic changed?

[Khantsevich] Stanislav Stanislavovich, it is no secret that one of the chief factors in the fight for the presidency will be the candidates' attitude toward the recently announced unification of the Russian and Belorussian [Belarusian] monetary systems. A strange situation has arisen: Many Russians disapproved of the idea, which is understandable—they are frightened of a fall in their own living standards. But it turns out that in Belorussia as well many people are convinced that no good will come of the future union. Even National Bank Chairman Bogdankevich recently stated publicly that he is against this union. But Minsk officialdom, in the shape of Prime Minister Kebich, is unequivocally in favor. I believe you have a different view?

[Shushkevich] Do you know, I pondered it long and hard: Will ordinary people think that a negative attitude toward the unification of monetary systems is a negative attitude toward Russia itself? Will they not regard the two concepts as synonymous? But it turned out that our people are unusually sharp and intelligent. The National Bank chairman is a professional and he says perfectly sensible things. What is better: To combine our Belorussian bad management with Russian bad management, albeit less bad? Or to find ways of regulating the economy and think about fitting, European-type union?

In my view, we have to seek ways of collaborating as closely as possible—in the customs, payments, and economic spheres. But without political intrigues; unification is friendship, they say, and all who are against friendship are anti-Russian.

[Khantsevich] So you think unification may not happen?

[Shushkevich] In principle it cannot happen. After all, there is no normal legal treaty. There is a protocol of intent, moreover, the intent of people who are not too hot on economics and have a poor idea of what a financial and credit system is but can well remember the USSR State Planning Committee and how you had to implement its directives.

[Khantsevich] Let us look at this problem from another angle. Does the approach you are advocating not contain the danger of further self-isolation, as has already happened in some former Soviet republics? For instance, in many Belorussian publications I have encountered the following notion: The national idea must be a priority for the future president. Do you agree with this statement?

[Shushkevich] I believe it is a normal statement to make. But first there is something I would like to emphasize. A person who loves Russia is called a patriot. A person who loves Belorussia is now called a nationalist. It is unfortunate, but it is a fact.

So I would like our sovereignty to be asserted not against Russia, but for the benefit of Belorussia. And if it is for the benefit of Belorussia, it must be in conjunction with Russia, in judicious collaboration with it.

[Khantsevich] Here is another fact from the newspapers. Some 77 percent of correspondents regret the collapse of the USSR and believe that the collapse is the main cause of the Belorussian people's current ills. What do you think?

[Shushkevich] First of all, who caused the Union to collapse? It is a totally naive view, one people use for their own political ends, that it was destroyed by three people—Yeltsin, Kravchuk, and me. It is simply absurd, if you don't mind my saying so. The Union had collapsed and one had to have the courage to say so. We did have the courage. Strictly speaking, it was not three of us, but six, because the prime ministers also signed the agreement, including our Kebich.

It is propaganda, Goebbels-style, I would say, to try to persuade ordinary people that the Belovezhskaya Forest agreement is to blame for all our ills. It is based on a very simple slogan: They have destroyed the Union, so life has deteriorated. But the authors of this slogan are reluctant to admit that they have done nothing for three years and will not admit that they do not know how to reform the economy.

[Khantsevich] But, Stanislav Stanislavovich, your opponents in the current election campaign are resorting to more or less these arguments. Why vote for Shushkevich, they say, he was in power for three years, but managed to accomplish nothing....

[Shushkevich] The answer is very simple. There is legislative power and executive power. I was head only of the Legislative Branch. If you recall, in former years leading writers were elected chairman of our Supreme Soviet—Shamyakin, Tank, Naumenko.... Now I did not have any extra powers compared with what they had, except the right to sign international agreements.

So I repeat: I was not head of state. We would make laws whereby the executive branch was supposed to operate. And I can seriously say that a normal life and normal running of the economy can be created in accordance with the laws that were adopted in very difficult conditions, in a number of cases in confrontation with the Executive Branch. But it is also a fact that the government never had and still does not have the desire to do so.

[Khantsevich] Do you think that Belorussia is now going over the same ground as Russia, but much later?

[Shushkevich] No, I do not. Belorussia relishes Russia's failures and problems. It relishes the problems with privatization, with land and tax legislation. I am talking about those who officially represent Belorussia.

We do not have the same path as Russia, we have lost that option.

It is easy to be strong in hindsight. We must be grateful to Russia for its self-sacrifice. And we must study and digest its wealth of experience.

[Khantsevich] What do you think the Belorussian Government's reluctance to get down to serious reforms is due to? A lack of professionalism, an inability to analyze the situation, or something else?

[Shushkevich] No, it is supremely professional in the sphere of the distributive, state-planned economy. I would suggest the following analogy, since I am a physicist by education. The ideas of quantum physics were totally unacceptable to many people once, they were regarded as absurd. But they established themselves and now they in no way contradict the classical approaches that came from Newton. We have more or less the same story here—the same protests from philistines who do not see how things can be different, different from the way they think. They have an algorithmic education, which is fine, perhaps, if you are involved in a trade, but very bad in the sphere of art. So in the matter of running a state, and this is an art, they are incompetents. They take on board today's slogans, but what they are essentially saying is: Let us be marketeers, but, for God's sake don't touch prices and subsidies policy, the policy of supporting bankrupts. What they say in the political sphere is: We will be sovereign, but we will abolish our national bank and become a piece of the Russian Federation budget.

That is why I believe that if a progovernment man becomes president at the elections, Belorussia's progress will be halted for many years.

[Khantsevich] Let us return to your resignation, while appreciating that it is not very pleasant for you. Was it inevitable or did it happen suddenly?

[Shushkevich] No, there was a logic to it. By a chance combination of events I managed to avoid resignation last June. Subsequently, the prevailing view among the deputies probably was that I would reform and honestly and carefully listen to advice. My November report convinced them that I had no intention of reforming....

[Khantsevich] There is a view that you were too obstinate on the matter of collective security....

[Shushkevich] I still believe we made the wrong decision. Collective security is no use to us. Belorussia has no interests in the Caucasus or in Tajikistan. Russia may have—it is a great power and many Russians are living in those republics. But neutrality is more logical for us.

[Khantsevich] So how do you see the future of the Belorussian Army?

[Shushkevich] Very simple. It must be slimmed down again to one-half its present size. Leaving 40,000-50,000 men, no more, in view of the fact that we still have a very large number of armed Ministry of Internal Affairs internal troops. We must rely on the protection of Russia and the other great powers.

[Khantsevich] Fine, but how does the idea of sovereignty fit in with Russian protection?

[Shushkevich] Tell me, how did the idea of Finnish sovereignty tally with the fact that the USSR and the United States had given guarantees of Finnish neutrality? It was effectively protection by the two great powers. Here we have the same scenario. Let Russia acknowledge our neutrality—that is all we want. And if Russia acknowledges it the United States will too. It would be splendid to have a neutral zone like that in the center of Europe.

[Khantsevich] It is fine in Finland. But how do you do it in Belorussia, where there is a missile silo under every fifth fir tree?

[Shushkevich] There are no silos in Belorussia, that is a mistake everyone makes. The only thing dug deep underground is the command and control system, the missiles themselves are mobile, so that the enemy does not know where they are deployed. So the presence of nuclear missiles reduces, rather than increases our security. It is merely tempting someone to put them out of action and hit Belorussia with a powerful nuclear strike. Basically, we are merely hostages at the moment.

[Khantsevich] One final question, Stanislav Stanislavovich. There is much talk in the Republic about corruption, including in the upper echelons of power. Various commissions have been set up, including a parliamentary one, but, as far as I know, there have been no big trials yet. Do you have your own program to fight this evil?

[Shushkevich] Do you know what I would do? Many people here have gotten rich under the law. The legislation was adopted either deliberately or unwittingly, but many people have obtained preferential credits for construction, which is tantamount to subsidies, and many banks have started functioning on the basis of the state capital holding and appropriating money and so on. Now, I would stop the witch hunt today and declare an amnesty for capital. We must rise above it, just as Russia rose above the idea of the "White House" shootout.

But that is now. Tomorrow let us establish very tough laws. Let us say: Here are the declarations of income, of property; now fill them in.

Of course, there will be many protests, but unless we focus attention on the defects in our legislation, on who is living off whom, we will lose a great deal in the future. That is what I would do.

Government Defends Record, Policy in Pre-Election Statement

WS2206103194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] In accordance with the Constitution, the elections of the first Belarusian president will take place tomorrow. In this connection, the Cabinet of Ministers has issued a statement.

The popularly elected president should become a guarantor of the sovereignty, national security, and territorial integrity of our state, as well as ensure political and economic stability, peace, and accord within society, and implement urgent tasks related to foreign policy and foreign trade. In the process of preparations for the elections, especially during its final stages, some candidates for the highest state position have made the government the prime target of their criticism, mounting the most incredible charges against it. It is being drilled into the people that the government has no course of action to resolve many complex economic problems. Subject to attacks, the statement reads, are even attempts by the Cabinet of Ministers to support state-run industrial and agricultural enterprises, as well as measures intended to reduce price increases, unemployment, and social deregulation of the market. The government, the statement stresses, considers it a task of national importance to restore the Republic's economic potential and ensure its integration into the international system of economic and political relations. Its integration policies have been accepted by the international community. Their most important element is economic union with Russia. The concluded agreements have already produced concrete results. As never before, the Republic needs mutual support, understanding, and a uniting of the efforts of all people to overcome the difficult situation.

Six Candidates Included in Electoral Ballot Papers

LD2106171294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1513 GMT 21 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] A total of six candidates were included in the ballot papers—Chairman of the Union of Agrarians and Council of Collective Farms Alexander Dubko; Premier Vyacheslav Kebich; head of the former parliamentary commission on struggle with corruption Alexander Lukashenko; Secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee Vasili Novikov; leader of the People's Front Zenon Poznyak and ex-speaker Stanislav Shushkevich.

Dubko, Kebich, Novikov and Lukashenko represent the left centrist bloc. Their programs focused on further integration with Russia, gradual non-shock implementation of the reforms, the continuing state management of the basic economic industries, simultaneous existence of different forms of property and the basic social guarantees for the population. These four candidates are backed by the bloc of parties and public movements making a part of the Belarussian People's Movement. The Belarusian People's Movement includes the Communist Party, the Liberal Democrats, the Republican Organization of Veterans, the Union of Officers, the Slav Council Party and others which have a wide net of local structures.

Shushkevich and Poznyak represent the bloc of the right forces. Their programs concentrated on "unconditional neutrality," active economic reforms and introduction of Belarus' own national currency units.

All candidates except Poznyak see Russia as the main economic partner of Belarus. Representatives of the left bloc regard establishment of an economic union with Russia as the beginning of a closer, not only economic but, later, also political integration.

Both the left and the right candidates tried to put forward single candidates from their blocs. However, no agreement has been reached.

IF Note: In accordance with the Belarusian legislation, the president is elected if more than a half of those voting during the elections vote for him. In Belarus 7.349713 million people enjoy the suffrage. About 2,000 Belarusian citizens will be voting abroad.

Observers in Minsk said they believed that there would be two rounds of the elections since there was quite a number of respected candidates each of who could win a significant part of votes. Moreover, according to the rating of the six candidates established during sociological polls, none of them had the guaranteed support of the majority of voters. This made the council of monitors under the Central Election Commission recommend that media publish no results of different sociological polls.

According to the Institute of Sociology under the Belarusian academy of Sciences, Kebich (with 31 pct of respondents supporting him) and Lukashenko (25 pct) have the best chances. They are followed by Shushkevich, Poznyak, Novikov and Dubko.

The Belarusian Interior Ministry told Interfax that the investigating bodies had practically completed the investigation into the false assassination attempt on Lukashenko and would soon announce the name of a person close to Lukashenko, who had shot the Mercedes of the candidates in the Belarussian presidency.

IF Note: In the evening on June 16 Interfax learned from the initiative group of Lukashenko's supporters that his car had been shot by unidentified persons during his campaigning trip across the Vitebsk Region. The press services of the Interior Ministry and the KGB officially announced that the assassination attempt had been planned and carried out by Lukashenko's group itself.

In an interview with Interfax leader of the initiative group Dmitriy Bulakhov disagreed with the conclusion made by the law enforcement bodies. He said that except this version the investigating bodies had not cared to work on any other versions. Bulakhov added that the investigation had been carried out without respecting the secret of preliminary investigation which made think that there were attempts to use the incident with Lukashenko against him pursuing some political goals.

Bulakhov did not rule out that at the last moment the candidacy of Lukashenko could be withdrawn from the presidential race since feeling that Lukashenko's rating was growing, the team of Kebich was ready to do anything in order to save its posts.

Official Predicts Low Turnout in Presidential Elections

WS2206101994 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1600 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] As of 20 June, of the 7,300,000 eligible Belarusian voters, 41,000 have already cast their ballot for Belarusian president. Based on results from the six days of early voting, Central Electoral Commission Chairman Abramovich told a news conference that election turnout will not be high.

On election day [23 June], updates on the voting will arrive at the commission every four hours. The final results will be made public within ten days of the election.

'Forged' Pro-Kebich Article Appears in State-Funded Press

MK2106115094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 5

[Report by Valentin Zhdanko: "Election Scandals Over Shooting on Roads and in the Press"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yet another resounding scandal in recent days stems from the appearance in three major republic papers financed from the state budget of a wide-ranging article allegedly reprinted from the Dutch AMSTERDAMGUFIRE [as transliterated]. The article takes a negative view of all the presidential candidates except Vyacheslaw Kebich. Especially many harsh words and offensive hints are leveled at ex-Speaker Stanislaw Shushkevich. Mr. Shushkevich's initiative group sent an official question to the Dutch Embassy in Warsaw. It received the answer: No publication by this name exists in Holland, and there have been no such articles in the Dutch press. The identity of the author of the forged article remains a riddle.

The Oversight Council consisting of independent experts recommended that in the days remaining before the elections the mass media refrain from publishing sociological surveys because, the council thought, sociological services in the country are as a rule controlled by the government and some of its leaders are members of Mr. Kebich's initiative group. This decision evoked a negative reaction from official sociologists. According to their polls, Mr. Kebich has enjoyed unequaled popularity in the republic for a long time now, although observers believe that the real mood among the bulk of the population creates some doubt that the prime minister will win the 23 June elections.

Number of Native Military Officers Increases 'Noticeably'

WS2106134794 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1600 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Over the past two years, about 15,000 officers have been discharged from the Belarusian Armed Forces. These were basically individuals entitled to pensions or those who did not wish to continue their service. At the same, the number of officers who were born in Belarus has noticeably increased. While such officers used to represent 16 percent of all personnel in the Belarusian Armed Fores, this ratio has risen to 47 percent today. It is estimated that with new graduates from the military schools joining the Armed Forces, this number will climb to 53-55 percent. In as little as one year, Belarus-born servicemen will account for 65 percent of the Belarusian Army, RID agency reported.

Moldova

Snegur Reports on 'Regional Conflicts' at Swiss Forum

LD2106174994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1513 GMT 21 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] At the final session of an international economic conference in Switzerland last Sunday, President Mircea Snegur dedicated a considerable part of his report to the peaceful, civilized settlement of regional conflicts. He said in any circumstances Moldova will remain true to civilized compromise aimed at the formation of an open system of local, regional, global, and collective security.

In Snegur's opinion the example of resolving the conflict in East Moldova (the Dniestr [Dniester] River valley) is convincing proof that in such situations only talks and compromise can guarantee success. However, the president is convinced that the effectiveness of the policy of compromise largely depends on the stage of a conflict.

He said the aggravation of the situation in southern regions with a predominantly Gagauzi population as well as in the east was caused by extremely politicized declarations in which political leaders were not always sincere or consistent.

According to Snegur, the Moldovan leadership did much to resolve the problems of those regions by peaceful means. A solution acceptable for both sides was found for Gagauzi regions, he said. Snegur told the conference that the region would be given a special legal status based on a high degree of self-determination and the sharing of powers with the central government. He announced that the approach was supported by the Council of Europe, the CSCE and conformed with plans of switching to a new system of territorial division of Moldova.

IF Note: The draft law agreed upon with the Moldovan leadership was signed on 27 May by the president and speaker of parliament of the Gagauzi Republic and submitted to the president and speaker of parliament of Moldova. On 9 June it was approved by the Gagauzi parliament and sent to the Moldovan parliament.

On Monday, the leadership of the self-proclaimed Gagauzi Republic accused the Moldovan government of distorting the draft law. The Gagauzi president and speaker of parliament Stepan Topal and Mikhail Kendigilian issued a statement saying that contrary to the agreement a Moldovan parliamentary committee altered the document. They called the move unilateral and unprecedented and claimed that it could not have been made without the knowledge and consent of President Mircea Snegur and speaker of parliament Petre Luchinski.

The statement calls for stopping the parliamentary debate on the distorted document and demands a meeting with the Moldovan leadership with the mediation of the CSCE mission. Gagauzi leaders placed the entire responsibility for the possible worsening of relations on the Moldovan leadership.

Snegur Sets Up Commission for Relations With Romania

AU2106184494 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Cristian Nita dispatch from Chisinau]

[Text] Today, in accordance with a decree by Mircea Snegur, the president of the Republic of Moldova, the Committee for Relations of the Republic of Moldova With Romania was set up, with the intention, quote, of ensuring efficient control over accords concluded by the Republic of Moldova and Romania in the field of economics, unquote.

Mr. Ion Gutu, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Moldova, was appointed president of the committee.

Language Certification Testing Deferred to 1997

PM2106165594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Gamova: "Language Test in Moldavia [Moldova] Deferred"]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau]—Russian-speaking specialists fearful of crossing the threshold of enterprises and organizations because of their inadequate knowledge of the state language can now work with equanimity: The Republic's parliament has postponed the language proficiency test until 1 January 1997. The members of the Agrarian Party and specialists who had promised during the election campaign to modify the law on the functioning of languages have kept the word given by parliament.

Unlike the members of the Moldavian People's Front, who try to exploit this law to carry out ethnic cleansing, the new authorities have abolished the Moldavian-language proficiency exam for those already working. As all business correspondence and technical documentation is already translated into the state language, knowledge of it remains a sine qua non. But no one is going to be dismissed for paucity of vocabulary. Parliament has ordered the government to draw up a new Moldavian-language instruction program, recognizing that the previous ones were extremely complicated. The range of people to be tested will also be specified, but this will be done regardless of the categories of specialists who fall within it. The examination will be mandatory for the Dniester Region and the southern regions, where there is a high density of Russians, Ukrainians, Gagauz, and Bulgarians, only when people are being recruited for jobs and contracts extended. This has been stipulated by a special amendment to the Law on the Functioning of Languages since the determination of the special status of these two regions.

Kazakhstan

President Receives Kyrgyz Premier; Agreements Signed

LD2105145594 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev received today Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister Apas Dzhumagulov, who is on a working visit in Kazakhstan. Government delegations of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, led by Prime Ministers Tereshchenko and Dzumagulov had a meeting later. They discussed implementing the agreement on trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. They also discussed the issue of paying our republic's debt of $55 million to the neighboring state for power supplies. The meeting discussed prospects for cooperation in the joint construction of the Kumbartinskiy GES and the possibility of power supplies to the southern parts of Kazakhstan, the volume of this year's supplies of Kazakhstan's chemical compounds with a trace of uranium to the Karabaltinskiy ore mining combine. The initiative for a joint Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan venture for processing and refining raw materials containing uranium was supported. It was decided that profits from selling uranium protoxide and oxide will be split in the following way: Kazakhstan's works will get 71 percent and Kyrgyzstan's 29 percent.

An intergovernmental protocol on the implementation of agreements on trade and economic cooperation between the two republics for 1994 and an agreement on supplying Kyrgyzstan with raw materials containing uranium starting from this year up to the year 2,000 were signed. Tereshchenko and Dzhumagulov told journalists that the working visit has given a new impetus to trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Nazarbayev Meets German Communications Industry Delegation

LD2106164394 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev met at his residence today with representatives of leading German communications companies—Alkatel-Stel, ERST, and Bundes-Os Telecom. They have been working in Kazakhstan for three years in accordance with agreements that were signed as a part of a German credit line. They are building international, intercity, and local telephone exchanges in 10 regions of our republic.

Last year, such exchanges were built in Zhezkazgan, Arkalyk, Aktau, and Kostanau. They are assembling equipment in Petropavlovsk, Kokshetau, Karaganda, Shymkent, and Ust-Kamenogorsk. A satellite direct communication line has been built recently to connect Akmola and Frankfurt-on-Main. They familiarized the president with the results of their activities in Kazakhstan and suggested a draft plan for joint work in future. According to the business representatives, the communications system in Kazakhstan must be privatized. The earlier it happens, the bigger the profit will be for the republic.

Telecom, a joint Kazakhstan-German venture, has been set up. It installs electronic international switchboard systems. The German side also spoke about the increase in investments to the republic. Nazarbayev assured German representatives of his support. With regard to the privatization of communications systems, the president said that an international tender is due to be announced soon for the right of foreign companies to cooperate with enterprises of this branch of industry. He expressed hope that German companies will participate in the tender.

Also attending the meeting were Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko and Foreign Minister Saudabayev.

Foreign Minister Addresses Foreign Diplomats

LD2106130694 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1200 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev met with foreign diplomats and representatives of foreign missions accredited in Almaty. Talking to them he stressed the irreversibility of democratic transformations and economic reforms in the Republic. The program on lifting the country's economy out of crisis, highlighted by Nursultan Nazarbayev's recent address to parliament, will give new impetus to this. The main purpose of the program is to preserve and strengthen interethnic accord in the Republic. At present, Kazakhstan is known for its essential contribution to ensuring peace, security, and stability. "With great pleasure I would like to express gratitude for your valuable role in creating a favorable political environment around Kazakhstan," Kanat Saudabayev said.

Bertrand Fessard de Foucault, the French ambassador to Kazakhstan, spoke in reply on behalf of the diplomatic missions. He said that this is the first meeting of foreign diplomats with Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev since the day Kazakhstan obtained its independence. "Each of my colleagues is working in Kazakhstan under the extraordinary conditions of the transitional period and a huge friendly interest in your country," he said. He assured that the diplomatic corps will continue to support Kazakhstan's efforts aimed at national unity, social progress, and economic development.

New Almaty Mayor Appointed

LD2106115794 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0100 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] The president of the Republic of Kazakhstan has issued an edict appointing Shaubay Tulmakhanov as head of the Almaty administration and releasing him from his duties as member of the State Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Mongolian Ambassador Visits Balkhash, Discusses Settlers

LD2106132194 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0800 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Mongolian Ambassador to Kazakhstan Erdeniyn Byambajab arrived in Balkhash yesterday. Today he had a meeting with Vladimir Popovich, the head of the Balkhash city administration, leaders of local enterprises, and representatives of public organizations. Earlier he had a meeting with staff of the Balkhash [word indistinct].

The purpose of his visit is to familiarize himself with living and working conditions of Kazakh settlers from Mongolia.

Internal Affairs Ministry Briefs Press on Crime Fight

LD2106185994 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Although a news conference at the Internal Affairs Ministry was devoted to the second anniversary of Kazakhstan's militia, the media correspondents were extremely interested in the results of the large-scale Kork operation.

Internal Affairs Minister Vladimir Shumov and Nikolay Prihoske, head of the chief administration for maintenance of public order, spoke about strengthening the fight against crime and the Kork operation's significance for strengthening stability in the Republic. It was noted that the strong support of mass-media and [word indistinct] various rumors spread among the people have encouraged them to take this action by fulfilling their obligation as law protection bodies.

During the operation, more than 3,000 crimes have been solved. About 8,000 hostels and hotels have been checked. Nearly 9,000 persons have been brought to justice for breaking passport regulations. More than 1,500 deserters and persons evading military service have been tracked down. Around 1,000 persons using narcotics have been placed on probation.

During the operational and preventive operations, 1,836 illegally held weapons were confiscated. Within five months, 329 various weapons were voluntarily handed in by the inhabitants. More than 6,000 illegally held weapons were forcibly confiscated.

At the news conference, there was special mention of the fact that the crime situation in the Republic is negatively affected by the diversion of militia workers for the maintenance of law and order during unsanctioned actions by various public associations. During the last five months around 3,000 militia workers were brought [words indistinct]. Only with the coordinated action of all 54 organizations and government offices, and also through broad sections of the public, is it possible to put Kazakhstan on the road toward building a law-governed state.

Increased Crime Result of Worsening Economic Situation

LD2106110394 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0100 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Summary from poor reception] The law-enforcement bodies of North Kazakhstan Oblast report that due to the worsening economic situation there was a increase by a factor of 2.5 in the number of crimes in the first quarter of 1994 compared to the same period in 1993. Of 1,950 crimes in this period, 380 were committed by young people in their twenties and 321 crimes were committed by unemployed people.

New Gas Deposits To Be Developed in Aktyubinsk Oblast

LD2206090394 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] In Shalkarskiy Rayon of Aktyubinsk Oblast, near the existing Bazoyskiy underground gas reservoir, the Gazovoy new deposit of natural gas will be developed. Preparatory works are being carried our by the Kazakhburgaz, which is included in the state holding company Kazakh Gas. The state company Aktyubtransgas will maintain the future deposit. Certain amounts of gas will be used from here as fuel, and then Gazovoy will become one more undersurface natural gas reservoir in Aktyubinsk Oblast.

Tajikistan

Opposition Stronghold 'Crushed' in Garmskiy Rayon

LD2106112694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1035 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Report by unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe, 21 Jun—The press center of Tajikistan's Defense Ministry reports that in the course of troop operations between 7 and 17 June in Garmskiy, Tajikabadskiy, and Jirgitalskiy Rayons, a stronghold of Tajik opposition fighters, who were receiving military assistance from Afghan mojaheddin instructors, was crushed in the territory of the destroyed villages of Chevi Mangaryk. The operations were conducted jointly by units of the Defense, Interior, and Security Ministries of Tajikistan.

In the course of just one battle, 12 opposition fighters were killed and seven wounded, other casualty figures are being clarified. German and British-made radio communication equipment, as well as a grenade launcher, grenades, and firearm ammunition were seized. Fire drill notebooks in Tajik and Pashto and other documents belonging to the fighters were found.

Law-enforcement agencies detained several members of armed groups. Four servicemen of the Defense Ministry of Tajikistan were killed in the fighting and nine were wounded. Measures were taken during the operation to ensure the maximum safety of civilians from nearby villages.

The tasks set before the troops have been carried out. Units of the Armed Forces of Tajikistan have now returned to their sites of regular deployment. However, despite all the measures that are being taken by the authorities and the forces to stabilize the situation in the Garm group of rayons, the situation there remains tense.

'Redeploying' After Stronghold Destroyed

LD2206100394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0830 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Dushanbe, 22 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—The government forces of Tajikistan have destroyed a major stronghold of the armed opposition in the foothills of the Pamirs. In the course of a two-week operation, which ended recently, several antigovernment groups that operated in the gorges of Garmskiy and Jirgatalskiy regions were neutralised. Hundreds of weapons and large quantities of ammunition were discovered along with modern radio equipment of mainly foreign make. According to military sources in Dushanbe, Tajikistan's antigovernment forces suffered significant losses in clashes with subunits of the republican defense and security ministries—over 20 opposition members were killed. Unfortunately, there were also losses among servicemen of the Defense Ministry, but the source did not specify. [passage omitted]

Describing the situation in the area of the Pamir mountains and in the Republic's mountain regions to the east of Dushanbe, the source called it complex, but quite manageable by the government forces. The militia and Security Ministry have set up checkpoints in the area's settlements and on all major roads, and the search is under way in gorges for militants who could be hiding there.

Meanwhile, independent sources believe that the normalization of the situation in Tajikistan's eastern regions is a long way away. According to them, the armed opposition, which calls itself the partisan resistance movement, has only temporarily given in to the onslaught of government forces in the mountains and is currently redeploying its forces.

Russian Border Guards Fight Continued Provocations

LD2206095994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0822 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jun—Having the tendency to further aggravation was the description of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan frontier given at the press bureau of the Russian border guards where the ITAR-TASS correspondent inquired today.

According to the border guards' reports, the movement of groups of fighters from the provinces of Konduz and Takhor in Afghanistan toward Badakhshan continues, for the purpose of further dispatch to the territory of Tajikistan. By 22 June the number of fighters has reached some 900 men.

The personnel of the Pyanj, Moscow, and Khorog frontier detachments have since 18 June, in five instances prevented illegal crossings of armed gangs of Tajikistan's Islamic Revival Movement into the territory of the Republic. Leaders of the irreconcilable Tajik opposition and field commanders have been given instructions to mount a series of armed and diversionary operations against the subunits of the Pyanj and Moscow frontier detachments, and also against the civilian population of the frontier regions of Tajikistan.

At the press bureau of the Russian border guards it was reported that on the territory of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, in the past few days narcotics traders have twice attempted to blockade the frontier detachment's base so as to provoke the Russian border guards into taking counter measures.

The border guards are taking the necessary measures to prevent any provocations or cases of frontier violations and are prepared to act with utmost decisiveness.

Opposition Spokesman Urges Negotiated Settlement

LD1806154894 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, 18 June, IRNA—A representative of Tajik opposition groups to Iranian-sponsored peace talks in Tehran said on Saturday [18 June] that the crisis in Tajikistan should be solved through negotiations.

Speaking to IRNA, Ata Khan Latifi [name as received] said that at present all factions involved in the crisis in Tajikistan have reached the conclusion that their problems should be solved through dialogue and negotiations.

Latifi said that people representing all Tajik opposition groups in the peace talks in Tehran would do their best to reach an agreement with Tajikistan's government representatives in accordance with a plan of action formulated in Moscow.

Underlining Iran's positive role in tackling the Tajik crisis, Latifi said that Tehran has made its utmost efforts to encourage the parties concerned to enter into negotiations.

According to him, the talks focused mainly on the return of Tajik refugees to their home and the administrative structure of future Tajik Government.

The Tajik labour minister, Shukurjon Zuhurov, who is representing his government in the Tehran peace talks, told IRNA that there was no other alternative but to negotiate a peaceful solution to the crisis.

He praised Iran's efforts to restore peace and tranquility to the former Soviet Republic.

Parliamentary Delegation Visits PRC

LD2106114594 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] A Tajik parliamentary delegation led by Abdulmajid Dostiyev, first deputy chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet, visited to the PRC yesterday.

The aims of the visit were to familiarize themselves with the activity of the country's parliament and to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

Tehran Talks 'Proceeding With Difficulty'

LD2106215194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1552 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran, 21 Jun—The participants in the second round of Tajik talks, which began on Saturday [18 June], completed their fourth day in the Iranian capital today. There were two sessions—one in the morning and one in the evening. If the discussion on the draft agreement on a cease-fire for the duration of the talks, as proposed by Romero Piriz Ballon, the UN secretary general's special envoy, had yielded some positive results, it was expected that a plenary meeting would have ensued, with foreign observers taking part.

However, the ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from Otahon Latifi, the head of the Tajik opposition's delegation, that the talks are proceeding with difficulty; the sides have been slow in moving from one point to the next and have been groping for points of contact. But that is no reason for pessimism, Latifi said.

Labor Minister Shukurjon Zuhurov, leading the Tajik Government delegation, confirmed that the sides have thus far discussed only the "first paragraphs" of the UN draft. He said, however, that the atmosphere at the talks gives reason to feel some restrained optimism.

The talks between the Tajik delegations will continue tomorrow. The UN envoys will take part in them.

Samadov Views Current Economic Problems

LD2106173694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1513 GMT 21 Jun 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] The general level of production in the country continues to fall, although slower than before, [Tajikistan] Prime Minister Abdulmadjid Samadov has told INTERFAX.

He sees one of the main reasons for the current situation in the fact that transferring payments between Tajikistan and Russia in either direction is still a major problem. Samadov believes it would be necessary to draft a plan for a CIS payment union at the heads of government level in the near future and submit it to the CIS heads of state conference in September. "The current situation is unbearable," Samadov said. "True, it would be impossible to count on the restoration of ties at the previous level, but putting financial and monetary affairs of the CIS in order is an urgent need," the Tajik Prime Minister said.

In his opinion, at the first stage there should be simpler rules of transferring payments from country to country, which would help stop the decline of economic indices in all CIS member-states.

Businessmen in both Russia and Tajikistan have been trying to handle the problem at their level, Samadov said. For instance, the recent visit of a Russian delegation under the President of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Arkadiy Volskiy to Tajikistan was a good start. "Russian experts are working in Tajikistan and ice has been broken," the Tajik Prime Minister said.

Samadov said that effective political reform in Tajikistan—the adoption of a new constitution and elections of a President and parliament—was another major condition for overcoming the crisis.

About the situation in agriculture the Prime Minister said that the first phase of field work had been completed and the immediate targets formulated by the Council of Ministers early this year met.

Tajikistan is now faced with another big problem, that of acquiring and using mineral fertilizes to achieve high crop yields, in the first place, those of cotton, Prime Minister Samadov said. He added that Tajikistan's own resources for that were not enough.

To import mineral fertilizers Tajikistan urgently needs a Russian technical credit. Prime Minister Samadov said the agreement on the credit was signed by his Russian counterpart Viktor Chernomyrdin as early as last March, however, the question has not been finally settled yet.

According to conservative estimates the use of mineral fertilizers would help increase this year's cotton crop 30-40 percent against last year's and improve to a certain extent Tajikistan's financial and economic position. Prime Minister Samadov said that a great deal more had been achieved in agriculture than in industry or construction this year.

Armenia

'No Tangible Progress' in CSCE Mission

NC2106211994 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Armenian Presidential Press Secretary Levon Zurabyan held a news conference today. Our correspondent Gevorg Gazaryan was present.

[Begin recording] [Gazaryan] Armenian Presidential Press Secretary Levon Zurabyan opened his news conference by saying: The republic's president has so often expressed his views on the Constitution that there is no need to discuss it again today. I will instead discuss Karabakh and the peace process. He reminded reporters of the different phases of the mediation efforts for peace by the CSCE and Russia, and of the fact that no guaranteed cease-fire has been established due to the position of the Azerbaijani authorities, something that could have opened the door to further steps.

Asked about Azerbaijan's position on the establishment of peace in the region, Mr. Zurabyan said:

[Zurabyan] Azerbaijan is reneging on its previous position, which it declared during the visit of Ambassador Mosberg, deputy chairman of CSCE Minsk Group, to the region between 26 April to 2 May. At that time, Azerbaijan was ready for an unconditional cease-fire. This change, and the latest incidents in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon, about which you already know, and the [Armenian] Foreign Ministry's statement on 18 June in connection with these incidents testify to the hardening of Azerbaijan's position. This causes serious concern for Armenia.

[Gazaryan] The press secretary then assessed the mediation efforts of Jan Eliasson, chairman of CSCE Minsk Group. Let me remind you that Eliasson visited Baku and Yerevan twice and Stepanakert once. The ambassador met with the Armenian president. He also met the Armenian foreign minister yesterday.

[Zurabyan] Eliasson's mission produced no tangible progress in the peace process in practical terms. In contrast to his previous visit, this time joint examination of the first and second phases [of the peace process] and the deployment of the peace forces in the conflict zone were stressed. Eliasson also expressed concern that if there were a delay in agreement on the second phase, the CSCE observers who were to be deployed at the first phase could find themselves in a dangerous and uncertain situation.

[Gazaryan] Asked if the CSCE and Russian mediatory efforts have reached an impasse, the press secretary replied:

[Zurabyan] Regarding cooperation between CSCE and Russia on stationing observers and peace forces—which would have prevented Azerbaijan from engaging in constant evasive maneuvers between the two mediatory missions—there has not been any real progress on this issue yet. In effect, this issue lacks the necessary mutual consensus and cooperation, which otherwise would substantially contribute to the productivity of the peaceful settlement. [end recording]

CSCE Delegation Concludes Visit

NC2106130794 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0709 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Yerevan ("RESPUBLICA ARMENIA" (Past), "LRAGIR" dailies), 06/21/94—A Mediation Delegation, headed by the CSCE Minsk group Chairman Jan Eliasson, started its visit to the region on June 14.

Members of the delegation arrived from Baku to Yerevan on June 16, and met First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Zhirair Liparityan. The delegation left to Stepanakert on the same date, and returned back to Yerevan on June 17 and met the President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. On June 18, members of the delegation met Liparityan again, and then left for Baku. On June 19, Eliasson returned from Baku to Yerevan, and negotiated with the Armenian authorities. He left the Armenian capital on the same day. No other details are reported by official Armenian press services.

According to preliminary estimates, visit of the CSCE Minsk group Chairman Jan Eliasson to the region has finished without notable results. Jan Eliasson said that the sides are still keeping rather harsh stances. In addition to this, the incident at the north- western section of the RA border on June 18 may seriously affect further negotiations.

Chairman of the Minsk group wasn't able to find any solutions to oppose the Russian project. He met unexpected obstacles in Azerbaijan to implementation of their plan of the Karabakh conflict's resolution. According to "Lragir", Baku suggested to involve the problem of liberating Shusha and Lachin from Armenian forces in the CSCE project. This topic is absent in the current version of the CSCE plan, being unacceptable to the Armenian side.

Foreign Affairs Ministry Statement on Fighting

NC2106125894 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0709 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Yerevan ("HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN" daily), 06/21/94 —RA [Republic of Armenia] Ministry of Foreign Affairs made a declaration, which particularly says:

"The Azeri military units shelled the north-eastern districts of the republic at 5am on June 5, and penetrated into the Noyemberyanskiy district. Having attacked the frontier post at the village of Barekamavan, the Azeris killed and outraged 6 Armenian frontier guards, wounded one and captured one frontier guard.

RA government believes that this provocation attack, in conditions when no military operations are carried out, evidences aggravation of the Azeri position and its negative attitude towards serious negotiations. This attack coincided in time with CSCE Minsk group Chairman's visit to Armenia. Therefore, this was, in fact, an attempt to fail Jan Eliasson's mission.

RA government demands official apologies and corresponding explanations from the Azeri authorities, as well as immediate return of the captured frontier guard and to cover the expenses caused by the attack.

Until the Azeri government does not satisfy the mentioned demands, RA government will seriously consider the question of stopping all negotiations on resolution of the Karabakh conflict. Responsibility for all consequences of failing the negotiations will lie on the Azeri republic.

Paying a great importance to de-facto cessation of military operations in Mountainous Karabakh during the month, and hoping that this may become a basis for a legal cease fire and for successful negotiations on resolution of the conflict, RA ordered its units not to respond to this provocative operation. Nevertheless, if such actions are repeated, RA keeps the right to take adequate measures."

Azerbaijani Shelling of Borders Reported

NC2106185194 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that the army units in Nakhichevan continued to encroach on the border of Araratskiy Rayon last night. The enemy shelled the defensive positions around Yeraskhavan with various firearms, howitzers, and grenade launchers between 1945-2150. There were casualties. The Armenian border guards adhered to the cease-fire and did not retaliate.

The cars travelling along Kiran-Voskepar road were periodically fired upon from Kazakhskiy Rayon between 2250-0100. There were no casualties. Again, our fighters did not retaliate.

The same source reported that the situation has remained calm on the rest of Armenian border regions since last night.

Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army press service reported that despite periodic shelling of the Karabakh defensive positions in certain sectors of the conflict zone by the Azerbaijanis, the cease-fire is basically holding. The Armenian fighters are not retaliating.

Plans for Border Trade With Nakhichevan Denied

NC2106131994 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0709 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Yerevan ("LRAGIR" daily), 06/21/94—Baku radio reported that the head of the Nakhichevan delegation refuted the information, spread by the Armenian media, that an agreement was reached on organization of border trade at the Armenian-Nakhichevan border.

He declared that the Armenian side suggested to open trade exhibitions at the border, but the Nakhichevan side abruptly refused, saying this is impossible between warring countries, when Armenia occupied significant Azeri territories.

Azerbaijan

Foreign Ministry Statement on Cease-Fire Violations

NC2106170394 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Statement; date not given]

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that it is essential to draw attention to developments within the framework of the effort made to find a peaceful solution to the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is common knowledge that the disputing sides have generally heeded the cease-fire agreement for more than a month.

Regrettably, Armenia has violated the cease-fire several times during the past few days. That has had serious consequences. For example, several towns in Sadarak Rayon in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] were shelled with heavy artillery on 19 June. Considering that, the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirms that compliance with the cease-fire agreement along the entire front line, which constitutes [words indistinct] in the negotiations process, is essential.

The evidence—which confirms that the representatives of Armenia and the Armenian community in Karabakh have tried to avoid the outcome of the consultations held in Moscow between the [words indistinct] and the delegations which represented Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani community in Daghlyk-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] with Russian mediation—is astonishing. Azerbaijan resolutely supports the effort to find a political solution to the dispute, which has continued for many years and created many misfortunes for the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples. Matters related to the finding of a political solution to the dispute, consolidation of the cease-fire, withdrawal of military forces from Azerbaijan's occupied territories, and establishment of the future political status of Daghlyk-Karabakh in Azerbaijan should [words indistinct].

Furthermore, Azerbaijan applauds the [word indistinct] mediation effort for the resumption of the peace process by the CSCE, Russia, and the CIS in order to completely end the dispute. The Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs views the present situation as a turning point and urges all responsible bodies to act with goodwill to contribute to the establishment of peace.

Parliament Revises Privatization Program

NC2106131794 Baku TURAN in English 0735 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Baku, June 20 (TURAN)—Gudrat Abdulsalimzade, head of the Committee for Property told at today's press-conference that the Committee submitted to the Milli Mejlis new draft of privatization program.

The new draft provides increase of privatisation share of each civilian of the republic to 120,000 manats. "It has been done in connection with the last overestimation of the privatised property", said Abdulsalimzade.

According to the program 8,768 enterprises and objects are scheduled to be privatized in 1994. It makes 14.8 percent of all enterprises and objects of the republic, covers 5 percent of all funds and 3.1 percent of all employees working in the state section.

Expenses for privatisations will total 400 million manats in 1994, said the Head of the Committee. According to him, "small" privatization, i.e. privatization of enterprises totalling no more than 200 people, is to complete in 1995. Middle and part of large enterprises will be privatized during 1996-1998.

Answering journalists question concerning the delay in the adoption of the program, even after it was signed by President, Abdulsalimzade said that there are people in the highest legislative body and in the ministries and among the leaders of enterprises, opposing the privatization program.

The high rank employee of the Committee for Property told TURAN that there are two approaches to this problem in the highest circles. "The part of them want to organise wholesale of state property, the others are opposed [to] privatization at all, referring to the war. "Privatization will not take place until they come to common decision", said the employee.

Law for privatization was adopted in Azerbaijan on January 7, 1993. Up to today only 5,000 taximotors [taxicabs] are privatized in the country.

Gasanov Receives Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister

NC2106151694 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1300 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov received the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Murtuz Sernavin [name and title as heard] who arrived in Baku yesterday on a working visit. Matters related to the broadening of bilateral ties were discussed at the meeting. The Azerbaijani president's upcoming visit to Iran was also discussed. It goes without saying that the Azerbaijan president's visit to Iran will lay a strong foundation for the development of our ties with the neighboring states.

Nakhichevan Parliament Speaker Visits Iran

NC2106130194 Baku TURAN in English 0735 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Baku, June 20 (TURAN)—The head of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] Supreme Mejlis Namik Gasanov was in Iran from June 15 until June 18 with an official visit, told TURAN the chief of parliament press-service Ali Gasanov.

During the visit Gasanov met with Ali Abdol-Alizade, ostandar (head) of province Eastern Azerbaijan. An agreement on cargo transportation from Baku to Nakhichevan through Iran and from Turkey to Azerbaijan through Iran was reached.

Gasanov and Abdol-Alizade signed an executive agreement between province Eastern Azerbaijan (Iran) and NAR. According to the agreement goods totalling 8.8 million US dollars, 20,000 tons of grain, 15,000 tons of kerosene, 20,000 tons of mazut, 10,000 tons of diesel fuel, 5,000 tons of coal, 3,000 tons of sugar and 1200 tons of liquefied gas will be delivered to Nakhichevan from East Azerbaijan.

Gurbanali Saadat, ostandar of Western Azerbaijan province met with Namik Gasanov in Urmie on June 17. The sides discussed the issues of board trade, of cultural and humanitarian cooperation. An agreement on trade and economic cooperation was signed on June 18. According to agreement, fuel and products totalling 3.5 million dollars will be delivered to Nakhichevan from West Azerbaijan within 6 months.

During the visit Namik Gasanov met also with business circles of Iran, visited tractor plant and enterprise dealing with fruit juice production.

Georgia

Call Made To Strip Shevardnadze of Special Powers

LD2106174394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1510 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] The Georgian parliament held a session today which discussed the country's budget. The parliamentary opposition gave a sharply negative assessment of the draft budget and took the opportunity to raise the issue of authority, demanding that the head of state be stripped of his special powers.

The session also heard a statement from the parliamentary majority, which condemns the activity of opposition deputies who are trying to create an obstructive atmosphere in the country's supreme legislative body and introduce it into the republic's sociopolitical life in general. The statement stresses that attempts by the opposition to impose on deputies a debate on the issue of authority, especially the issue of stripping the head of state of his special powers, is aimed at sowing destabilization in the country. The statement says that the issue of authority is addressed by the draft of the republic's new constitution and will be debated before the constitution is adopted.

Defense Minister, U.S. Envoy Discuss Cooperation

LD2106201694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] This information came from the Defense Ministry press service.

On 21 June, Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze, defense minister of the Republic of Georgia, received Kent Brown, U.S. ambassador to Georgia, who was accompanied by high-ranking officials from the U.S. Department of Defense. The meeting was attended by Major General Nodar Tatarashvili, chief of the General Staff.

The defense minister told guests about changes in the Armed Forces, which had begun following his appointment as minister. The main purpose of these changes is to create a small but capable and modern Georgian Army. In order to attain this difficult objective, we are receiving a great deal of assistance from our partners—the command of the Russian troops in the Transcaucasus. However, we would also be pleased to receive assistance from our U.S. colleagues and are ready to cooperate with them within the framework of NATO's Partnership for Peace program in order to safeguard peace in the region, Nadibaidze said.

At the end of the meeting, the minister thanked guests for the visit and for the attention that the United States was giving to Georgia and its army construction, adding that contacts between the the two countries' military would develop further.

Russian Generals Arrive To Coordinate Peacekeeping

LD2106164294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] On Tuesday coordinators of the peace-keeping operation in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone Russian generals Aleksandr Sokolov, Valeriy Kuznetsov and Vasiliy Yakushev arrived in Zugdidi (West Georgia). This was reported to Interfax at the press center of the Georgian Interior Ministry force. The generals met the commander of the force Vladimir Chikovani and the local administration and discussed the details of the coming operation.

Also on Tuesday the Council of the Federation, the upper house of the Russian parliament, approved the sending of Russian peace-keepers to the conflict zone.

According to well-informed sources in Tbilisi, the restoration of the bridge across the Inguri river has not yet started. Russian troops on both sides are building temporary premises for future checkpoints.

Shevardnadze on Russian Role

LD2106203594 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Today Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian head of state and chairman of parliament, received Russian Ambassador to Georgia Vladimir Zemskiy. The ambassador presented to the head of state a letter from Boris Yeltsin in which the Russian president thanks Eduard Shevardnadze for his message of greetings on Russian Independence Day, and expresses confidence that friendship and cooperation between Russia and Georgia will continue for the benefit of the two countries' peoples.

The two discussed today's decision by Russia's Federation Council, authorizing the deployment of Russian peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone in Abkhazia. The head of state said that the decision is very important. He stressed that this international initiative by Russia is of historic importance not only for Georgia, and that its success would be a prerequisite for stability in the Transcaucasus. In the opinion of Eduard Shevardnadze, the success of the operation will boost Russia's international reputation, and would be a positive example to other countries.

Ardzhinba Satisfied With Troop Deployment

LD2106192494 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Video report from Georgia by correspondent Georgiy Ratishvili, including recording of interview in office with Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Abkhaz Republic, by unidentified correspondent—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today the sapper units of Russian peacekeeping forces have continued the search and clearing of mines both on Abkhaz and Georgian territories. The checkpoints will probably start operating soon. Work has been going on since dawn to set them up. Also today, work resumed on repairing the 25 meter-long bridge across the Inguri. It will be used by military formations of Russia's Transcaucasus group of troops to enter the Gali areas of Abkhazia. This is precisely the peacekeeping contingent that will create conditions for the safe return of refugees to Abkhazia in the near future. Now that the issue of the introduction of the Russian peacekeepers into the area of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict has been completely resolved, these forced immigrants have a real chance of returning home.

[Correspondent] Vladislav Georgiyevich, how do you assess today's decision by the Federation Council that Russian troops can be used in the peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia?

[Ardzinba] In Abkhazia the decisions of the Federation Council and the president's decree have been received with satisfaction. We hope that the deployment of the troops on the border between the Abkhaz and the Georgian states will create the necessary conditions to prevent a new war, to stabilize the situation in the region, and to continue talks on a full-scale settlement of relations between Abkhazia and Georgia. After the troops are deployed, we will be ready to consider questions connected with the resumption of work by communication lines linking Russia with the republics of the Transcaucasus, and generally we hope that Russia's economic policy in relation to Abkhazia, whose population has shouldered all the hardships of war, will change.

Kitovani Suggests Georgian Peacekeeping Force

PM2206112194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Vitaliy Denisov under the "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and News Agency Correspondents Report" rubric: "Will 'Blue Helmets' Suit the National Guard?"]

[Text] Tbilisi—"All states belonging to the CIS must have peacemaking battalions, since we cannot rely on Russia all the time," Georgian parliamentary deputy Tengiz Kitovani believes.

He has advocated the creation of the republic's own peacemaking units, so as to have the possibility of participating in the settlement of conflicts in neighboring regions. He proposes to form battalions of "blue helmets" on the basis of the National Guard and the recently disbanded military police. At the same time Kitovani ignored the question of where it is proposed to find the funds to maintain them.

Russian Troops Clear Mines Near Inguri River Bridge

LD2206120494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Russian troops finished the removal of mines from the region adjacent to the village of Rukhi near the bridge across the River Inguri, the press center of the Russian troops in the Transcaucasus told Interfax. Control posts are being built on both banks of the river, after which the work to restore the Inguri bridge will begin.

Deputy Commander of the Russian troops in the Transcaucasus Major-General Vassiliy Belchenko told Interfax that two battalions were ready to take part in the peacekeeping mission in Abkhazia. He said that these battalions' bases will be determined by Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev who is in charge of the peacekeeping operation. The operation itself is to begin during the next two days, said Belchenko.

The Georgian Defense Ministry's press center informed Interfax that the Georgian troops and heavy equipment had been removed from the security zone in the region of the peacekeeping operation over to the Senaki Region. Only local police units still remain in the 12-kilometer zone in the Zugdidi and the Tsalendzhikha regions, said the Georgian Defense Ministry's spokesman.

Grachev Briefs Shevardnadze on Parliament Meeting

LD2106161394 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1400 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 21 Jun—Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state, announced at today's session of parliament that he had a telephone conversation with Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. The conversation was held at the initiative of the Russian defense minister.

Grachev informed Shevardnadze that Russia's Federation Council met today. The Council examined the Russian president's decree authorizing the deployment of peacekeeping troops in Abkhazia. Grachev said that the two-hour meeting had been tense, with a great number of questions having been asked. There was a vote, during which President Yeltsin's decree was approved by an absolute majority of votes. Therefore, the introduction of Russian Federation peacekeeping troops to the region of Abkhazia will begin 22 June.

Reporter Describes Situation in Abkhazia

PM2106142194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jun 94 pp 1, 5

[Report by special correspondent Viktor Litovkin datelined Gali-Sukhumi-Gudauta: "Wearing Bulletproof Vests and Blue Helmets Beneath Abkhazia's Sultry Sky. Report by IZVESTIYA's Special Correspondent Viktor Litovkin from the Georgian-Abkhazian Conflict Zone"]

[Text]

Backup for Reconnoitering Operations

Heavy transport aircraft approached the Bombora military airfield in Gudauta from the sea and, one after another, landed on the scorching concrete strip. They disgorged space, tropospheric, and radio relay communications stations, as well as command-staff and engineering obstacle-clearing vehicles, bulldozers, excavators, graders, and bridgelayers. Soldiers carrying heavy loads on their shoulders ran down the ramps, while Colonel General Kondratyev, Russia's deputy defense minister, called a briefing for journalists who had arrived in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone

"Let me make it clear to you once more, gentlemen," he said, "that what you are seeing is not at all the start of a peacemaking operation but just the preparations for embarking on it."

Some 30 minutes earlier the general had a telephone conversation with Moscow. He was told: A major scandal had erupted at the State Duma because the introduction of Russian peacemaking forces in Georgia has yet to be approved by the Federation Council while the military, ignoring this decision as usual, have already launched their actions.

"Let me repeat," Gen. Kondratyev said, "that the peacemaking troops will not arrive before the 21st [of June]. I am convinced that the deputies will—and cannot but—back the president, while at present we are only deploying communications centers, we are here to clear mines and repair bridges using engineering equipment, we are conducting reconnoitering...."

What is the meaning of the word "reconnoitering," a meaning that is so obscure to civilians? Any military school graduate or platoon leader can rap out—as if reciting the Lord's Prayer—that it means the visual study of a locality and the enemy. It is conducted by the commanding officer in person when organizing combat operations, moving troops, or selecting sites for their placement. Its purpose is to confirm decisions made using topographic maps.

This is how it was conducted at the rayon center of Gali, where the staff of the first control zone, a communications center, and two battalions—an amphibious landing battalion and an engineering-sapper battalion—are stationed.

"There is our military commissariat," Galskiy Rayon Administration Leader Ruslan Kishmariya pointed at a small building surrounded by palm trees. "Right opposite you have the former Georgian high school, with two buildings ready and waiting to accommodate your soldiers."

The "ready and waiting" buildings are an older two-story block and a newer three-story block; the glass is missing from most windows, having been shot out in the course of battles; there are no tables or desks; the sanitary equipment, electricity cables, and light bulbs have been plundered. But this does not intimidate anyone. While in Tskhinvali, our soldiers wintered in the shot-up barracks of the former helicopter regiment.

"Fine," Gen. Kondratyev nodded. "We will site the staff and the communications center at the military commissariat, park the equipment in the school yard, and station the battalions inside the buildings. Sapper," he summoned the representative of the engineering troops chief, "bring along glass panes, cement, and whatever else is needed to repair the buildings, let us leave them behind as new. We will install a bakery...."

"There is no need to bring a bakery, Comrade General," the administration head interrupted, "ours is working below full capacity. We will be only too happy to bake bread for the Russian soldiers. But flour is the only problem...."

The bread situation is very difficult in Abkhazia, now enjoying plentiful supplies of fruit and vegetables, but suffering from fire damage and semideserted because a good one-half of the population has fled the country seeking to escape the war. There is virtually no bread in Sukhumi, Gudauta, or Ochamchira, let alone Gali. There is no need to further amplify the meaning of Ruslan Kishmariya's offer. But the deputy minister did not go into details.

"Very well," the general said. "We will bring in flour, as well as all the rest—like gasoline, diesel fuel, and construction materials. Our army will be completely self-sufficient."

A colonel whom I know, representing the General Staff, whispered:

"Where are we going to get the money for all this? Last year's peacemaking operations cost the Army 26 billion [currency not specified]; costs during the first quarter of this year reached 14 billion, the introduction of battalions in Abkhazia cost 3 billion, while the cost of their stay here, added to the costs incurred in the Dniester region, in South and North Ossetia, and in Tajikistan, runs at 0.5 trillion every six months. And all this comes out of the military's purse. You would think that it is the Ministry of Defense, rather than the state, that needs Russia's presence in the Caucasus and peace along its borders."

Mine-Detecting Dogs—Another Item in Short Supply in Our Army

Some 1.5 km away from the high-altitude Inguri hydroelectric power station, Abkhazian regimental commander Alik Arshba used a topographic map to show Lieutenant Colonel Aleksandr Karkodola, deputy commander of the Russian engineering-sapper team, the sites of mine fields along the Abkhazian-Georgian border in the sector of the zone assigned to him.

"They are everywhere along the Inguri floodplains," Alik said. "On both sides of the border. There are plenty of them in the forest, here for example," and he moved his pencil along the green areas around Hill 2176, "and here," the pencil moved about a centimeter lower down, "and here.... We do not have a continuous frontline, there is a shortage of men, saboteurs and sundry other rabble sneak through constantly, and so our guys have scattered mines wherever they could," he explained.

"Do you have any documentation—mine field maps, any other paperwork?"

"You must be joking. Do you think we employ specialists? Let me tell you, I personally am an English language teacher, I was an instructor at the Komsomol [Communist Youth League] rayon committee until perestroyka times," Arshba laughed out. "The war forced me to take up arms. Others as well."

I met Col. Karkodola on the flight to Gudauta. It emerged that, back in 1984, he commanded a platoon of the Bagram 108th Motorized Rifle Division's engineering-sapper battalion. While on official travel in Afghanistan, I had met some of his comrades and had written about them. We reminisced about the mine-detecting service's sheepdogs Chana, Bina, and Nord which had helped our soldiers to clear the deadly implants placed at every step of the way along the roads and in the villages there. They each had about 100-150 detected mines to their credit.

"Chana would be quite useful here," the lieutenant colonel said, "even though she was already past her peak in 1984. A mine-detecting dog's service life is not long, just two years, after that—having sniffed and breathed in plenty of TNT—it dies of cirrhosis of the liver. But the dog is irreplaceable in mountains and forests or along river banks—heavy equipment cannot get there."

Aleksandr gave me a detailed account of how dogs are trained in mine detection. Apparently, they do not add tolite to their feed as I had previously thought, but feed them on explosives. The sheepdog gets used to the smell while feeding. And then it seeks food, not mines. A mine detection service team consists of two instructor soldiers and two dogs. A male and a female dog without fail. Otherwise they would fight and would not get down to work. The male dog leads the way, the female follows so as not to distract him with her smell.

It takes nine months to train a dog for this work, and five-and-a-half months to train its instructor. They can detect mines together for only six months—the serviceman then has to be discharged in the reserve. Getting the sheepdog used to a new handler also takes almost six months. But this is unavoidable. The number of professional contract servicemen in the Russian Army's mine detection service can be counted on one's fingers. None of them is here in Abkhazia.

The explanation is simple. The Army is now experiencing a shortage not only of draftees, contract servicemen, and officers, but also of mine-detecting dogs.

They used to be trained at the Dmitrovskaya Military Dog-Handling School, Russia's only such school, which at one time used to have about 50 sheepdogs highly trained in mine detection. But, due to the increasingly frequent raids on arsenals and arms dumps, all these dogs have been retrained to guard ammunition and have been dispersed among the various military districts. There is no money to train replacements—one such trained dog costs almost 1 million.

A grand total of...10 mine detection teams, in other words 10 soldiers and just as many mine-detecting dogs, have been found in Leningrad Military District to cover the entire Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone with an area of 4,368 square km, with some 100,000 mines and other explosive surprise gifts like unexploded shells and land mines scattered all over the place, and nobody knows where and how they have been planted.

"God forbid," Lt. Col. Karkodola said, "that one of our guys should be injured by a mine—blame will be pinned on everyone but those who are skimping on our soldiers' safety. Do you know the value of our lives here, in the 'hot spot'? 100,000 net. You cannot even dig a grave for that money nowadays."

The UN Mission—Out of Play

I met with Brigadier General John Hvedegard, chief military observer and leader of the UN mission in Georgia, in his office on the third story of the "generals' block" at the Sukhumi sanatorium owned by the Moscow Military District.

The sanatorium suffered virtually no damage during the two-years long war, although it is without water or light, like the rest of the city. A battalion of Russia's 345th Airborne Assault Regiment was stationed here all these months and, following unambiguous warnings, both warring sides were afraid to shoot at it. True enough, the UN men have brought along all their own equipment in addition to white Jeeps with blue "UN" insignia on the side and space communications stations—including a power and water supply station and a computer installed in the general's office.

The general has been joined by 22 military observers. They are from Denmark, like the general, as well as from Bangladesh, Hungary, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the FRG. The 12 civilian staffers come from Chile, the Dominican Republic, the United States, Canada, Belorussia [Belarus], and Trinidad and Tobago. The mission's purpose is to implement the UN mandate and monitor the observance of the cease-fire. Four of his officers are on the Georgian side, on the eastern bank of the Inguri River, the rest are here, on the western bank.

The general declined to tell me which of the sides is more to blame for breaching the cease-fire. "We report such information only to New York," he declared, but went on to add that his colleagues have filed complaints against both parties to the agreement signed in Geneva.

The general shows understanding for the Russian Army's peacemaking role in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. He thinks it only natural that the United Nations has not extended its mandate to our own military, does not pay for their peacekeeping operation, and has even refused permission to have their armored personnel carriers and vehicles painted in the white UN color. "The armed clash between Georgia and Abkhazia," Hvedegard said, "is an internal affair of the CIS, not of the United Nations."

June. Sukhumi. "Dead Season"

The most powerful impression of Sukhumi was not produced by the city's burned down rayons, where flowering summer gardens and the clusters of bright red pomegranate and pink oleander cannot conceal the black shells and ruins of former luxury mansions and the gaping windows, here and there covered with plastic sheeting, of plundered multistory apartment blocks. As a matter of fact, no matter how cynical and bitter this may sound, you somehow—unfortunately—quickly get used to this in the course of official travel to the "hot spots."

You are no longer amazed—no matter how painful the sight might be—by the half-dead old men and women who stand for hours in line outside the bread stores or by the fierce clashes between them when the doors suddenly open and they see the tray with a dozen or so loaves for free distribution. The prices at local markets and stalls—"dirt cheap" when compared with Russia—appear normal and easy to comprehend. They are geared to local wages.

Seeing that a teacher or a physician earns 10,000 rubles [R] a month and a pensioner gets just R2,500—even though their money has not been paid for months—paying R500 for 1 kg of medlar or an 0.5-liter jar of yogurt or R250 for a glass of "Izabella" does not seem all that cheap. The unemployment that has spread everywhere and the deserted streets and squares in the hot and generous subtropical city, which used to be merry and crowded with countless boarding houses, sanatoriums, small cafes, and restaurants, inspire no hope of an opportunity to earn something by trading. Even though brand new goods are hardly on sale here now.

It is perhaps this surprising lack of people in Sukhumi in June, its silent and deserted silken sand and pebble beaches, this "dead season" in the midst of the traditional festival of life, that creates the most vivid impression of the deserted southern city.

No shots are fired there today. Or rather, no shots are fired from mortars, artillery guns, and salvo-fire systems like the "Grad," but nobody would risk going out into the streets after 1800 hours. It is very easy to get hit by a stray bullet fired by someone of unknown nationality, wearing civilian clothes and carrying an assault rifle.

Indiscriminate banditry is the main problem in Sukhumi today. We are no longer talking about the looting of abandoned apartments, the theft of cars, or the division of war spoils—people are robbed of their last possessions.

Aunt Lora, an elderly Russian woman standing in line for bread, who grew up in Sukhumi, told me how her neighbor—an Abkhazian woman called Zhuzhana who can no longer walk because of old age and weakness—had her home raided by "confederates," gunmen from the group of North Caucasian irregulars who have been given apartments formerly owned by Georgians fighting on the other side, who stole the canned food from her refrigerator. Nobody in the line disputed this fact or was amazed by it.

"Nothing unusual," I was told by an elderly Armenian wearing the ribbons of the "For Valor" and "For Victory over Germany" medals on his faded shirt. "There is nobody to protect us. Our children have either gone away or died on the border with Georgia, chaos rules here."

"Our republic's main problem," I was told by one of Abkhazia's leaders, "does not lie in mutual relations with Georgia, Russia, or the world community—everything will get sorted out in time; but those who have experienced the power wielded by weapons, those who have risked their lives but in a couple of hours made more money that they would have done in 10 years of hard labor plowing their field or garden, they will find it difficult to return to normal work."

The majority in Abkhazia pin their hopes on the Russian soldiers. Gali Mayor Ruslan Kishmariya told me that the deployment of peacemakers in their rayon would enable almost 40,000 families of Mingrelian refugees to return home—people who did not participate in the war but fled their homes in fear for their lives.

"We will not touch the innocents," he declared, "let them return to their land. But there is not and there never will be any room here for those who shot their Abkhazian brothers, those who burned and plundered their homes."

...Through the four days of my official travel to Abkhazia I was accompanied by Paratrooper Valeriy Korotayev. He comes from the city of Votkinsk in Udmurtia, whose machine building plant produces the famous "Topol" strategic missiles. That is where his father works.

Valeriy is a strong guy, 1.80 meters tall, straw-blond, and always ready to smile; he has been serving with the airborne assault troops for six months now, completed his training in Omsk to qualify as driver of a BMD-3 fighting vehicle. This is his first month with the 345th Regiment. He likes it very much here, even though he admitted to me that for the last week he had never taken off his 12-kg bulletproof vest, he never got the chance. He even got a suntan in it.

He has not yet written to his parents to tell them he is in the Abkhazian "hot spot," he does not want to worry them, but he has hinted as much to his 17-year old younger brother. But he did give me permission—if I somehow managed to work it into my report—to tell his father and mother that in the fall, when the fruit harvest where will be plentiful, he intends to go on leave and take them some gifts.

Parliament Ratifies Black Sea Cooperation Convention

AU2206073694 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 17 Jun 94 p 1

["Decree of the Georgian Parliament on Ratification of the Convention on Cooperation Between Black Sea Countries in the Cultural, Educational, Scientific, and Information Sphere"]

[Text] The Georgian Parliament **decrees:**

To ratify the Convention on Cooperation Between Black Sea Countries in the Cultural, Educational, Scientific, and Information Sphere.

[Signed] **Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian Parliament.**

Tbilisi, 14 June 1994.

Adzharian Council of Ministers Makes Appointments

AU2206073494 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 16 Jun 94 p 1

[GIA report under rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "Session of the Adzharian Supreme Council Presidium"]

[Text] A regular session of the Adzharian Supreme Council Presidium has been held. The personal request submitted by Dzhemal Nakashidze, chairman of the Adzharian Autonomous Republic Council of Ministers, to be released from his post has been granted. The proposals made by the heads of ministries and departments in the autonomous republic have been taken into account and it has been decided that the chairman of the Supreme Council will temporarily also fulfill the duties of chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers.

By a decree of the autonomous republic's Supreme Council Presidium, Aleksandr Pagava has been appointed first deputy chairman of the Adzharian Autonomous Republic Council of Ministers and has been released from his post as a minister acting as chief coordinator of branch ministries and departments.

Government To Reregister 295,000 Refugees

AU2206073594 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 16-17 Jun 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Registration of Refugees Has Not Ended"]

[Text] The IBERIA news agency has been informed by the Committee for Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons that there are currently about 295,000 refugees in the Republic of Georgia of which 60,000 are in Tbilisi. They receive monthly assistance amounting to 70,000 coupons [per person]. This amount increases according to inflation. As regards humanitarian aid, this is distributed directly in the rayons according to local registration.

Preparations are being made to register anew refugees and forcibly displaced persons; this should take place on 18-19 June. Refugees are to be given new identification cards, which have already been printed and sent to the rayons.

Protocol Signed With International Fund

AU2106194594 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 17 Jun 94 p 1

[Statement by the Union of Georgia's Citizens Press Secretariat: "For Mutually Advantageous Cooperation"]

[Text] On 15 June, a protocol was signed in the "Mtatsminda" business club between the International Fund for Reconstruction and Development and the Georgian Citizens' Fund.

The main aim of the agreement is to promote wide-scale economic reforms in Georgia and lay the ground for the development of business contacts between entrepreneurs in conditions of mutually advantageous cooperation. Particular attention is devoted in the document to guaranteeing the protection of the rights of the private entrepreneur.

The protocol was signed on behalf of the International Fund for Reconstruction and Development by its vice president Sergey Shurygin, and on behalf of the Georgian Citizens Fund by its president Gogi Kavtaradze.

Estonia

Foreign Ministry Statement on Yeltsin Border Decree

WS2206112694 Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release in English 0756 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Statement issued by the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tallinn on 21 June—received via Internet E-LIST]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of Estonia received with deep concern the announcement about the June 21, 1994 Russian Federation presidential decree, "Demarcation of the Border Between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Estonia" which arrived via mass media. The Russian Federation did not find it necessary to inform Estonia about this step through diplomatic channels.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry notes that Russia's unilateral decision was made at a time when, pursuant to the decision made at the May meeting between the President of the Republic of Estonia Lennart Meri, Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, a new impetus has been given to the finding of solutions to on-going problems in bi-lateral relations.

In the framework of the Estonian-Russian negotiations, within the working group on border issues, Estonia has steadfastly sought solutions, including the creation of a legal basis for the operations of the border guards. In the international arena, Estonia has repeatedly presented initiatives to deal with border- related differences of opinion with the Russian Federation: last February Estonia proposed the naming of a special representative of the Chairman of the CSCE, Estonia has repeatedly offered to take the matter to the International Court in the Hague, likewise, Estonia has proposed discussing the border problem with Russia in the framework of the European Stability Pact.

The only treaty in force which sets the border between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation is the 1920 Peace Treaty of Tartu which the "National Border Book Between the Estonian Democratic Republic and the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic records. The 1940 Soviet occupation of Estonia did not affect the validity of this treaty. The August 24, 1991 Russian presidential decree in principle recognizes the legal continuity of Estonia.

Russia's decision to unilaterally demarcate the border "in the political and economic interests of the Russian Federation" clearly violates the charter of the UN as well as CSCE principles to resolve matters of dispute through negotiations, without unilateral actions and without the use or the threat of force.

The carrying out of the the Russian presidential decree under the current conditions would mean that, without the consent of the other nation, one nation selects and proclaims an arbitrary line to be the border between two nations. A line whose delineation is not mutually agreed upon cannot be made a national border.

In the complicated situation which has developed, the Republic of Estonia reaffirms its willingness to solve the question of the national border with Russia at the negotiating table and calls upon Russia to forego all kinds of unilateral actions in these questions.

The June 21, 1994 Russian presidential decree on unilateral actions regarding the national border with Estonia leaves the impression that the Russian Federation is not interested in the normalization of relations with Estonia.

Official Comments on Demarcation

LD2106192694 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Estonian authorities learned of today's edict by Boris Yeltsin from the mass media. Raul Malk, vice chancellor of the Estonian Foreign Ministry, told our radio station that the text of the decree had not been conveyed to Tallinn by diplomatic channels.

[Begin Malk recording] The implementation of the presidential edict would signify, in present conditions, that one state thinks up some line, and without agreement with the other side declares it as the state border of the two states. The state border cannot be established unless its line is agreed with the other side. Today's decree on a unilateral act in matters of the state frontier with Estonia gives the impression that when all is said and done, such is Russia's interest in the normalization of relations with Estonia overall. [end recording]

Meri Accepts Ministers' Resignations

LD2206103094 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpt] President Lennart Meri yesterday released Finance Minister Heiki Kranich and Culture and Education Minister Paul-Eerik Rummo from their posts. The official notice from the presidential press office late last night says that until the new ministers are appointed, Economics Minister Toivo Jurgenson will be acting finance minister, and Population Minister Peeter Olesk will be acting culture and education minister.

Yesterday Prime Minister Mart Laar offered the post of finance minister to Andres Lipstok, the district elder of Laanemaa district. Andres Lipstok graduated from the economics department of Tartu University where he specialized in finance and credit, and the prime minister has invited him to join the government as a financial specialist. According to the prime minister's secretariat, Lipstok agreed to take the post of finance minister if the [government] coalition agrees. [passage omitted]

Clinton Riga Trip Unlikely To Impact Troop Withdrawal

WS2106130394 Tallinn BNS in English 0854 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Tallinn, June 21, RIA-BNS—"I don't believe U.S. President Bill Clinton's upcoming visit to Riga is likely to speed up the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia," Estonian President Lennart Meri said in an interview with the Russian RIA news agency.

In the president's opinion, the Russian leadership has long ago adopted a political decision in this question. "It would be incorrect on my part to consider President Clinton's visit to Riga as putting pressure on the world power called the Russian Federation," Meri emphasized.

Clinton is going to pay July 6 a six-hour visit to the Latvian capital, Riga, during which he is scheduled to meet with Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis and his Estonian and Lithuanian counterparts, Meri and Algirdas Brazauskas.

Estonian Ambassador to the United States Toomas Hendrik Ilves told BNS Clinton had first mentioned his wish to visit the Baltic states last September when he met with the three Baltic presidents in New York.

White House officials unfortunately dropped Estonia from Clinton's schedule after familiarizing themselves with the blueprints of the Tallinn Airport: the airfield didn't have a runway long enough to receive Air Force One.

Latvia

Russian Troop Withdrawal Proceeds on Schedule

LD2106211394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] The process of withdrawing Russian troops from Latvia is proceeding according to schedule. According to the press center of the Northwestern Group of Forces, over half of the 177 units have currently been withdrawn. Three-quarters of the military equipment and 95 percent of the ammunition have been removed.

Defense Minister Meets Swedish Parliamentary Delegation

LD2106184194 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Today in Riga, the Saeima Committee on Defense and Internal Affairs and Defense Minister Valdis Pavlovskis met the members of the Swedish Parliament's Defense Committee, who are currently acquainting themselves with the work of their colleagues in the Baltic countries. The Swedish colleagues were interested in Latvia's military doctrine, the national armed forces structures, the relationship between the Home Guard and the defense forces, the problems of guarding the borders, and women's role in the creation of defense policy.

Yesterday, the members of the Swedish parliamentary Defense Committee visited Lithuania; tomorrow, they arrive in Estonia.

It should be noted that this is the first instance since the declaration of Latvian independence that the full complement of another country's parliamentary commission has visited Latvia.

Saeima Passes Law on Citizenship

LD2106183794 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Excerpts] The citizenship bill was debated in the Latvian Saeima today on its third reading. As expected, the debate was primarily devoted to Clause 14, which regulates the general arrangements for the naturalization of non-citizens. [passage omitted]

The quota principle could be an obstacle to admission to the Council of Europe. This was pointed out in a speech by Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs. In a secret ballot, this quota was removed from the law by majority vote. Thereby, the Saeima this evening accepted the law on citizenship. The voting in the secret ballot was: 66 deputies for; 11 against; three abstentions.

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